FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-89-249
Friday
29 December 1989

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-89-249 *29 December 1989*

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Cuba

U.S. 'Arrested' Ambassador to Panama, Secretary

UN Representative Confirms Arrest

PA2812224289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2212 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] United Nations, 28 Dec (EFE)—Oscar Oramas Oliva, Cuba's permanent representative at the United Nations, today confirmed U.S. troops have arrested Lazar Mora, Cuban ambassador to Panama, and Alberto Cabrera, secretary at the Cuban Embassy.

In statements to EFE, Oramas Oliva explained that the incident occurred at approximately 1610 when the two diplomats were leaving the Cuban ambassador's residence in Panama City.

Oramas Oliva "strongly protested" these arrests, which he described as a "provocation against diplomats and a shameful action." The United States "is acting as if Panama were its private farm," Oramas stressed.

According to statements made to EFE by Mora's wife, Maria Elena de Mora, her husband was arrested today at the doors of his residence and taken, together with Cabrera and commercial adviser Oscar Braulio, to an undisclosed location. According to Mora's wife, they were being guarded by a U.S. armored personnel carrier, registration number 511 MP-300.

For the past several days, the Cuban Embassy in Panama City has been surrounded by U.S. troops who invaded the country on 20 December.

Cuba is the only country that has expressed its willingness to receive overthrown General Manuel Antonio Noriega, former head of government, who sought refuge at the Apostolic Nunciature in Panama City on 24 December.

According to a high-ranking U.S. Embassy official in Panama City, approximately 65 supporters of Noriega's overthrown regime, among them "his wife and children," are currently at the Cuban Embassy.

'Kidnapping' 'Extremely Serious'

FL2812234989 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2247 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Report from Panama City by Nelson Notario Castro—live by telephone]

[Text] Cuban Ambassador Lazaro Mora was arrested this afternoon at the entrance of his residence by U.S. troops who have surrounded the residence, which falls under the protection of the international laws governing diplomatic immunity.

Comrade Mora and First Secretary Alberto Cabrera were arrested by the invading U.S. forces. The two duly accredited Cuban diplomats went from the Cuban Embassy Chancery to the ambassador's residence in a car bearing diplomatic license plates. The two buildings have been surrounded by U.S. troops for 4 days.

I want to inform you, my friends, that 2 hours later, that is, by approximately 1730, both the ambassador and Comrade Cabrera were back at the residence. Thus, they have already been released by their kidnappers, because that is what the U.S. troops did.

Plainly speaking, this has been nothing but an act of kidnapping. The ambassador was taken toward a U.S. armored personnel carrier bearing the number 511 MP-300, which headed toward an unknown direction; while the first secretary, Comrade Cabrera, was taken toward another military vehicle that was heading in an unknown direction. But, while Comrade Cabrera was searched and handcuffed, the ambassador was not, because he identified himself as the ambassador.

If in a press report, it is claimed later that the ambassador was taken with Comrade Cabrera because he asked to protect Cabrera, then one should ask how one could protect another person in a situation like this if both persons are not riding in the same vehicle? Thus, this claim would be entirely out of keeping with logical thinking. Therefore, there is no logic behind this action. It is an extremely serious action. I repeat that Cuban Embassy sources here have described this very serious action as a plain kidnapping. I can inform you that shortly before 1600, Comrades Lazaro Mora and Alberto Cabrera were back at the residence.

Ministry Terms Act 'Grave'

FL2912040089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0336 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Lazaro Mora, Cuban ambassador to Panama, has characterized his detention and that of adviser Alberto Cabrera as another provocation of the U.S. troops against the Cuban diplomatic mission. The head of the embassy, who has already been released with Cabrera, said this action violates all the norms of respect to diplomatic immunity and international law and that there was no element to justify such action.

A note released by the Cuban Foreign Ministry characterized the action as grave and directly blamed the Bush administration for the consequences they may bring.

Oscar Oramas Oliva, Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, met with Enrique Penaloza, chairman of the Security Council, to analyze the situation.

Ambassador Describes Incident

PA2912032789 Havana International Service in Spanish 0211 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Telephone interview with Lazaro Mora, Cuban ambassador to Panama, by Pedro Martinez Pirez—live]

[Text] [Martinez Pirez] Radio Havana Cuba is in telephone contact with Panama City. We are talking to

Lazaro Mora, Cuban ambassador to Panama. Ambassador, Radio Havana Cuba today read the charge made by the Cuban Foreign Ministry. It reported that you, and Cuban Embassy adviser Alberto Cabrera, had been arrested. Apparently, it was an arbitrary decision. According to the report, you were later returned to the residence. Would you please give us a complete report on this incident?

[Mora] What happened is as follows. We arrived at the residence accompanied by Comrade Alberto Cabrera, first secretary of the Cuban Embassy. As has now become a custom, we were stopped at a checkpoint set up by U.S. troops outside our doors. There is a detachment of the 82nd Airborne Division outside our doors. They are responsible for the operation launched at noon on 24 December around our residence. They asked for our identification. We gave them our passports and identification letters issued by the Panamanian Government identifying us as accredited diplomatic officials. A little later they returned my passport and letter, and the captain in charge of the detachment told me that he was going to withhold First Secretary Cabrera's documents because he had to come with them. I asked what he meant, and he said that Cabrera was under arrest. It was then that we began to argue.

I told him that I could not allow them to take Cabrera because this was in violation of the Vienna Convention. I also told him that this violated the guarantees granted the Cuban diplomatic personnel in Panama by the U.S. Government itself through its Interests Section in Cuba, and in Washington and New York. I asked him to check because this was surely a mistake. He checked and told me there was no mistake that it was an order and that he had to arrest Cabrera. He asked me to cooperate. I told him I could not cooperate in the arrest of one of my officials when this was in violation of international law. We had an exchange of words and the discussion began to get pretty heated.

When the cars, two Hummer combat vehicles, arrived—they had been sent for to transport and escort Cabrera—I demanded that I be allowed to accompany him wherever he was being taken so I could talk to the officer who had issued the order.

They did not arrest me, that was not the issue. They were arresting the embassy first secretary, but I could not let them take him and let him disappear before my eyes. We were taken in one of the Hummers to a garrison in Panama Viejo. It is a garrison occupied by the 82nd Airborne Division. There we patiently waited for the officer to arrive. After checking our identification, he asked us to wait. We waited for approximately 20 minutes. We were both standing on the first floor of the garrison. Later we were taken to a room on the top floor where we were told to sit down and wait.

We waited an additional 15 or 20 minutes until another officer came and told us that, unfortunately, there had been a mistake, which they regretted, and that they would have some vehicles ready to take us back to our mission in a matter of minutes.

I would like to say the following: No one has explained to us yet what the mistake was. This is a provocation. This is a new act of arrogance and intimidation perpetrated against our mission's personnel. I am not talking about the soldiers who carried out the order. I can state that we were not physically mistreated, but we do think it is an affront for such a situation to occur.

This is a situation that really leaves much to be desired rgarding U.S. Forces, but I think we can expect anything from the current U.S. Administration since it trampled on the principle of nonintervention and after this flagrant, rude, and atrocious violation of the Panamanian people's sovereignty and independence.

[Martinez] Ambassador Mora, I want to know something: Has the Cuban Embassy in Panama received the solidarity of other diplomatic missions, particularly Latin American missions?

[Mora] Yes, we have received the solidarity of most of the Latin American diplomatic missions and of the European diplomatic missions—particularly the dean of the diplomatic corps accredited to Panama, the apostolic nuncio, Monsignor Jose Sebastian Laboa.

[Martinez] Thank you, Ambassador Lazaro Mora, for this valuable information you have provided to Radio Havana Cuba.

Havana Protests

PA2912002289 Havana International Service in Spanish 0009 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] After being detained for 2 hours by U.S. troops in Panama, Cuban Ambassador to Panama Lazaro Mora and First Secretary Alberto Cabrera have been released. As soon as it learned of this new U.S. provocation, Cuba filed a vigorous protest with the U.S. State Department and denounced the arrest to Enrique Penaloza, president of the UN Security Council, and Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general.

In addition, the Cuban Foreign Ministry issued a declaration holding the U.S. Government responsible for any consequences that may result from acts of this kind, which violate international law.

Both the Cuban Embassy and the Cuban ambassador's residence have been surrounded for the past several days by Yankee soldiers and armored vehicles.

Embassy in Panama Remains 'Technically Besieged'

PA2812190989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1810 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 28 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Cuban Embassy Adviser Luis Delfin Perez said today that the

deployment of U.S. troops around the Cuban Embassy in Panama has decreased, but that "the embassy is technically besieged."

Perez told ACAN-EFE that the Cuban diplomats can leave the embassy, although the U.S. soldiers demand to search their vehicles. The Cuban diplomats refuse to have their vehicles searched since they consider that action a violation of the Vienna Convention, which regulates diplomatic privilege.

According to Adviser Perez, "there are approximately 100 people including children" inside the ambassador's residence.

Perez added: "We have a small group of Panamanians under our protection," but he refused to reveal both the exact number of Panamanians and their identities.

Perez stated: "The identity of all the people inside the residence has been revealed to the United Nations and to the U.S. Government, which knows who they are. We cannot make any other comment on this."

According to a high-ranking U.S. Embassy official, approximately 65 people close to General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime sought refuge in the Cuban Embassy, including Noriega's wife and his children. Perez told ACAN-EFE: "The U.S. military pressure has decreased. It is not as ostentatious as it was during the first few days, but the siege is technically maintained."

In addition, Nicaraguan Embassy Adviser Francisco Alvarado said that there are no armored vehicles in front of the Nicaraguan Embassy and that its officials can go in and out of the building freely and without being searched.

Alvarado added that U.S. soldiers' patrols, however, can still be seen near the Nicaraguan Embassy.

The Nicaraguan and Cuban Embassies were surrounded by U.S. troops a little after the beginning of the U.S. military intervention in Panama on 20 December.

Draft Condemning Invasion Prepared With Nicaragua

FL2812215289 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2034 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] This morning, the Group of Eight withdrew a draft resolution before it was submitted to the UN Assembly. The resolution would have condemned the U.S. invasion on Panama. The members of the regional organization reached this decision because the Brazilian authorities recognized the new Panamanian Government of Guillermo Endara and decided not to co-sponsor the above-mentioned document. This caused the temporary suspension of the international community organization session.

Another draft is being negotiated now. This time, it is sponsored by Cuba and Nicaragua. They will submit it this afternoon for the consideration of the UN Assembly for a possible repudiation of U.S. attack on Panama.

In the meantime, the UN's Credentials Committee continues to meet to decide the legitimacy of the ambassador who will finally represent the isthmian country at the UN plenum.

Commentary: U.S. 'Cocky'; Nicaragua Threatened

FL2812204189 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Commentary by Roberto Agudo]

[Text] What concerns me personally is naturally what is happening and what could happen in Panama. What is the image that characterizes Panama right now? Violent repression. There is a house by house search for each of the persons who in one way or another could have been involved with the previous government. But that is not all, there is more. Any of the snitchers, like Torrijos used to call them, or the informers, who we know here as whistle-blowers, who are operating with the U.S. troops, can simply go to a house and point to a person and say he was a sympathizer of the previous government and that person is immediately arrested. Needless to say, people are being tortured in the seclusion of the camps where the Americans have tens of thousands of people. Right now they are in the midst of an extraordinary policy of terror. This is what is happening now. [Words indistinct].

What could happen? Well, the United States has become extraordinarily cocky with the invasion of Panama. And now you see what is happening in Nicaragua, which, by the way, is doing very well in putting all its troops on a maximum state of alert. Since in the White House, Pentagon, and CIA everyone has become cocky, anything could happen at this time. They really underestimate the people. What they would really like is a military operation, if it can be called that, like the one they carried out in Panama. Panama is a small country that produces some wood and plantains and has a population of 2 million people. It has 100 times less the population of the United States. Panama has territory that is tens of thousands of times smaller than the United States. That is the type of operation the United States wants—a highly developed country against an underdeveloped country, not against a developing country. The United States wants a country that lives from its plantains, [words indistinct] production. That is the type of operation they want.

Naturally, that is why they are now threatening Nicaragua, because they have become cocky. However, I think they should not confuse Nicaragua with Panama. The conditions are totally different. There are many specialists in the world who agree on warning and alerting those who can reason a little bit in the United States to tell them that the situation would not be the same. The Panamanians are also being underestimated. One cannot forget that in 1501 the Spaniards established

themselves there and began to colonize what is known today as Panama. They formed their first city, Santa Maria de Belen, and they repressed the Indians. However, the Indians, with their sticks and stones, got rid of the Spaniards. The Indians destroyed the city and got rid of the Spaniards. In other words, they cannot be underestimated.

Nevertheless, comrades, please allow me to suggest to you that it seems to me the end of the year is going to be very hot, very much on the alert, and very vigilant of what could happen within Panama as well as in the area. Nicaragua is threatened.

Wrap-Up of Sixth Session of National Assembly

FL2812163389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1253 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] At 1027 last night, and after 2 productive long days of work, our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz wished the deputies a happy 1990, and he ratified the motto: Socialism or death, fatherland or death. Thus concluded the Sixth Session of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] at the Palace of Conventions in our capital.

[Begin Castro recording] You can see that people are working with motivation, willingness, decisiveness on very reasonable efforts and under conditions which no one can imagine. If we had some time, we could discuss this further. It is not important now how much we grow, but in what areas are we growing. That is the key. Our situation is that we must grow in the areas where strategic problems can be solved. We must invest resources in areas where strategic problems of the economy can be solved. That is what we are doing. If we need underpants [words indistinct] ignore. But if we can't increase the production of underpants, we will not do it. Nevertheless, I do think we are increasing the production of underpants. If there is a shortage of several things, it is not [words indistinct] as long as it is not food, or basic items for the population such as toothpaste, soap, shoes, and clothes that we need. Many of the things we can be low on are not important. The important thing is the areas areas in which we grow, the investments we make. [end recording]

The Santiago de Cuba report was approved in the last session. Among the recommendations made by the assembly to that province is the need to increase efficiency in the sugar industry, increase savings in construction materials, and to reduce expenses in enterprises. The deputies congratulated the Santiago de Cuba residents for their efforts during the past 6 years. Also approved in this last session were the draft resolutions for the economic-social development plan and the state budget for 1990. The documents emphasize those investments which increase the attainment of currency, food for the population, and social development. The deputies approved next year as the 32d year of the revolution and voted for Camaguey and the National Tourism Institute to give their progress reports in the next session of the ANPP which will be held in June.

The anti-Cuban television project was repudiated by our parliament.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] The ANPP addresses all U.S. people, entities, and public institutions which deal with telecommunications and private radio and television information stations—some of which could end up harmed in a radio-electronic confrontation—and asks that they take into account the reasons and arguments which support the just position of the Cuban people. And finally, the ANPP holds the U.S. Government responsible for the unforeseen consequences that could result from this interventionist aggression, which is in violation of our sovereignty. [applause] [end recording]

The Sixth Session of the Third Legislature of the ANPP examined in detail vital aspects of the country's economic-social development, the difficulties we must face, and the measures that will ensure satisfactory results for our country in next few years.

The Cuban parliament has recessed. He who wanted to speak, spoke. He who asked, got an answer. That is democracy, true socialist and revolutionary democracy. Merit was praised, perfection was urged and everyone shared in the happiness of success. This did not prevent the questioning of work methods, goals that were not met, and inappropriate ideas. All this was (?discussed) in addition to criticisms and the appropriate solution.

This parliament is convincing. It is evident by its creative initiative, honesty, intelligence, and dedication. That is also democracy. Everyone spoke here, and everyone was responsible here. Men and women who represent the people confirm with their actions their election to the post. That is democracy. The Sixth Regular Session of the ANPP has ended. The deputies have worked hard, and difficult times await them, because the revolution continues demanding devotion and dedication, and dignity forces us to fight for the future.

Castro Views Santiago de Cuba Report

FL2812174989 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1323 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Report by Gisela Bel Eredia from the "Haciendo Radio" program]

[Text] The changes that are going to take place in Santiago de Cuba will be spectacular, said Fidel during a special speech at the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP].

[Begin Castro recording, in progress]...not only because of the [party] congress but also because of the things I imagine they will continue doing there, in Santiago de Cuba. We are all very happy about that. Generally, there is not a province in which efforts, in various degrees, are

not being made. A lot of work is being done in all of them. I am especially happy about the things that are being done in the eastern provinces because they developed unevenly. Despite all the attention that was given to that region during all the years of the revolution, [word indistinct] population grew more, and a phenomenon of unemployment developed, excess personnel. I see that this is clearly being reduced, and it will be reduced with all the projects we have. [end recording]

Prior to the approval of the Santiago de Cuba report to the deputies, the chief of the revolution also said that the eastern provinces have done such important things like building the (Fregat) machines factory in Granma, which will produce 1,500 machines.

[Begin Castro recording] I think all this will help reduce the phenomenon of excess personnel that was being created there. I think the tourist developments in the area of Holguin and Santiago de Cuba will also help because that kind of activity requires a lot of workers, either in construction or in the maintenance of all those services. Naturally, I think we are now following a policy that should have been followed earlier. We had had the problem of industry in Havana for a long time. Many of the current [word indistinct] were originally created in Havana. Las Tunas is developing the production of steel and steel structures, in addition to the production of glass, rod irons, and stainless steel products. We are even thinking about building another factory. Therefore, Las Tunas is also experiencing an important industrial development. Holguin has the factories for agricultural industries, for [word indistinct], ploughs, combines. Notice the importance of the combine factory for the national economy. [Word indistinct] has not allowed itself to reduce the number of sugarcane cutters to any less than 65,000. Now we want to see if we can introduce other combines, combines for rice. [end recording]

On that subject, he said that Holguin will begin producing these rice combines.

[Begin Castro recording] Important industries are being created in the eastern provinces. I can tell you that that region of the country is (?going into) an industrial phase that will narrow the gap that existed prior to the revolution, and which, although to a lesser degree, was also maintained during the revolution. Santiago de Cuba was a symbol of all those changes and all that progress which makes us happy. We have great confidence that they will continue along that path. [end recording]

This regular session of the ANPP also approved the reports of the Construction Materials Industry Ministry and of Santiago de Cuba which received recognition from the commander in chief, and like the materials industry, also received the compliments of the Cuban parliament.

Castro Inaugurates Several Projects 29 Dec

FL2912005489 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0332 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, inaugurated several projects today in various places of our capital.

First, Fidel inaugurated several projects at the Jose Antonio Echeverria University City [CUJAE] where he met with students and construction workers. He visited the exposition marking the 25th anniversary of the CUJAE.

Later, the first secretary of our party inaugurated the Puente Nuevo bus terminal in Marianao which was built by 250 Blas Roca Contingent workers who participated in the event together with Fidel.

Almost at dawn, our top leader went to the Antillana de Acero expansion project where he attended a ceremony honoring Havana construction workers.

Speaking at the opening of several projects at the CUJAE, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro said students and workers are the ones who will sock it to the Yankees if they ever decide to attack us.

He asserted that he had tried more than once to speed up those projects but explained that they were delayed because of other very important ones that required many resources.

Fidel said a lot has been achieved since the rectification process began 2 years ago. He referred to the reorganization of mini-brigades and the construction materials industry, as well as to the water resource management program.

Regarding the situation in Panama, Fidel asserted that we are facing an empire that believes it owns the world. It just carried out a criminal action against the isthmian nation without the least respect for the Latin American people.

There is something that the Cuban people will always be grateful for to the Blas Roca Contingent, even more than its feats and tens of projects. It is its example. This was said by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro when he inaugurated the Puente Nuevo bus terminal that will be called 16th Congress.

Addressing the 250 Blas Roca workers who built the urban bus terminal in only 4 months, the first secretary of the party said that although this was the last one to begin being built out of eight, it turned out to be the first one to be completed. He said it is difficult to find a force with the discipline, efficiency, and power of the one of the Blas Roca, as he expressed his wishes for other contingents to do similar work. The country will progress with work like this. This gives confidence to the people, to the revolutionaries, of what socialism can do. This is shown by the work carried out by the laborers who are

building other projects such as pig-raising centers, cold storage houses, and the facilities for the Pan-American Games.

When he presided over the event honoring the Havana construction workers at the Antillana de Acero expansion projects, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro asserted that without construction there is no development.

A red banner was presented to the Havana Construction Ministry delegation during the ceremony. This is special recognition for the work done this year and the efficient work shown during the rectification process. The Julio Antonio Mella Contingent that is working on the Antillana de Acero expansion project, the No. 3 Earthwork Brigade of the (Raul Rora) Contingent, and other Machaco Ameijeiras Contingent brigades that are building a polytechnical institute in the countryside, also received banners. Fidel said the Julio Antonio Mella Contingent has to live up to that glorious name and assured that they will go to Antillana de Acero to build the expansion projects.

Castro University Remarks Reported

FL2912035289 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro this afternoon attended a ceremony marking the 25th anniversary of the Jose Antonio Echeverria University City, CUJAE, and the dedication of the first completed project.

[Begin Castro recording] [applause] As Nicolas Guillen would say, let this university city have what it should have because I believe everything was done under the best subjective conditions. I am not talking about the contingent, but about attention to man. In universities, in this university city, we of course must talk about attention to man, which is also very important and about which we are concerned. By promptly completing this university city we hope that attention to man will improve. To the extent that food production improves in the country, food for students will improve because I am sure, I have great confidence, that we will implement our program, that we will go beyond our expected goals. We will all be satisfied about this, we will all be proud of it. [end recording]

During the ceremony, the commander in chief presented banners to the Jose Antonio Echeverria and 13 March Contingents, which are charged with [words indistinct].

During an emotionly charged moment, (Antonio Romillo), rector of the Jose Antonio Echeverria Higher Polytechnical Institute, presented Fidel with the 25th CUJAE anniversary medal and a miniature facsimile of the fountain on 25th Avenue.

Earlier, the commander in chief toured the building built by the two contingents and expressed interest in the most significant achievements of the institute in the area of research.

[Begin Castro recording] [Words indistinct] I would just like to congratulate you for the achievements you are making in research centers, for the contributions you are making to the national economy in various areas. I hope you will have the necessary means to promote this activity. To the professors, to the students, I want to convey the unrestricted confidence the revolution has in all of you as teachers, as revolutionaries, as patriots. [applause] [end recording]

Commander in Chief Fidel Castro this afternoon also dedicated the first of eight bus terminals that are being built in the capital. The bus terminal, which has been called the 16th Anniversary of the CTC [Cuban Workers Federation], is located in the Puente Nuevo neighborhood of the Marianao municipality. Construction workers of the 25 brigades of the Blas Roca Calderio Contingent and collectives of sugar cane workers participated in the construction of this bus terminal. The terminal consists of 26 areas and will be able to hold more than 100 buses.

During the dedication ceremony, our commander in chief presented awards to the most outstanding workers of this project. Candido Palmero, head of the Blas Roca Calderio Contingent, said that they worked more than 17 hours daily [passage indistinct].

[Begin Castro recording] We are dedicating this terminal, which is be the first of the eight we decided to build to complete the system of bus terminals in Havana. This was the last one to get started, but it is the first one to be completed. It is one of the eight terminals that will make up the system for the time being and it will provide great support to the transportation system in the capital. The extraordinary feat is that this terminal was completed in 4 months—that is, between 17 and 18 weeks. Working in this fashion will certainly make our country move ahead. [end recording]

Castro Presents Banner

FL2812231289 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Council of State, presented a banner today to the 13 March Contingent this afternoon. The contingent is building important projects at the Jose Antonio Echeverreia University City, CUJAE. The ceremony also served to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the important arts and study center with the presence of the commander in chief.

Close to 12,000 engineers and architects have been trained in the CUJAE in its 25 years of existence. They have contributed to the development of various areas of the national economy. The 13 March Contingent is composed of workers and students of the important university center.

Media Coverage of UJC 'Reaffirmation' Rally

FL2912043489

[Editorial Report] Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish and Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish at 0000 GMT on 29 December begin simultaneously carrying live coverage of a rally of "revolutionary reaffirmation" being held by the Union of Young Communists, UJC, to mark the 31st anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban revolution. The rally is taking place at the intersection of 23 and 12 Streets in Vedado, Havana, which is where Fidel Castro proclaimed the socialist character of the revolution 28 years ago.

In attendance are Vilma Espin, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Armando Hart, Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, and Jorge Risquet, members of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee.

The crowd is seen waving Cuban flags and holding banners with pro-socialist slogans. The announcer says that similar events are being held in various provinces. A huge balloon with the slogan "31 and forward" is seen above the crowd. The Cuban national anthem is then played.

At 0008 GMT, UJC President Roberto Robaina addresses the rally. Speaking of the time when Fidel Castro proclaimed the socialist nature of the revolution 28 years ago, Robaina says: "Most of us who are here today were not present physically. Some of us were simply too young and many of us were not even born yet. Our fathers and grandfathers were the ones who found themselves along this street forming a giant crowd that went beyond Paseo Street. There are some in this crowd today who witnessed that historic event. However, those witnesses who are honorably accompanying us tonight can confirm for themselves that all the faces seen then are not here, that the same youths who raised rifles over their heads are not here; however, they can confirm that the same courage seen then can be seen in these faces now. Moreover, they can see the same decisiveness that was present then. They can confirm again and again that the patriotism that got them together then is even greater now. It is enriched and has multiplied. Even more so, it is enriched and multiplied with the patriotism that characterizes the new Cuban generation. As Fidel said: It is firmer, stronger, more revolutionary, more internationalist, and more unyielding than the generation that inspired and educated us."

Robaina then discusses criticism of the Cuban revolution and the changes taking place in the socialist world. He says: "Some small groups, some small defamatory groups, which are longing for foreign models, have echoed—like pet parrots—the thinking of others to judge the revolution and its leaders. They have crossed to the other side of the street to judge, like political snipers, the project we have built together and which will be successful, come what may, no matter whom this may hurt."

Robaina continues: "There is a lot of tension in today's world and dramatic events are taking place. We are following them closely and are reaching our own conclusions. There are some who have already trampled the Marxist-Leninist legacy. There are some who disown the poor of the world and embrace and take communion with the wealthy of the world. There are some who want the laws of capitalism to come back and who want unequal trade between socialist countries. We, together with all the people, will carry on the revolution as conceived. Each one of us is willing to give instead of ask. We are willing to act instead of criticizing. We are willing to be players and not spectators of the work of the people. Of course, confidence and certainty in the future cannot lead us to a false sense of triumph. The road is long and is full of difficulties."

Turning to the U.S. invasion of Panama, Robaina says that during the recent rallies held in front of the U.S. Interests Section, which "represents the lack of interest the United States has for the peoples of America, the office that represents the North American disdain for the world...we said we should feed saccharin and protein molasses to the braying donkey of Bush so he could improve his breed. Shortly after that, some comrades criticized us for proposing to feed such a beast with such nutritious food. We publicly accept the criticism and regret having offended our noble animals by comparing them with the U.S. President."

Continuing his discussion of Panama, Robaina says: "The Panama invasion has been carried out. The result of this great feat of the Southern Command has been hundreds of dead and thousands arrested. What extraordinary pride they feel for having committed the crime, for having trampled Panama as they trampled Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, and as they have trampled so many countries on our planet.... Comrades, if there are reasons to justify invasions, how many countries in the world would have the right to invade the United States to balance the accounts? All of Latin America would have to land on the U.S. coasts to settle once and for all the unjust and barbaric acts committed against our peoples."

The UJC president next discusses the U.S. TV Marti project. Terming TV Marti an "aggression" that will not be allowed under any circumstances, Robaina says: To allow the installation of an anti-Cuban television is to allow the Yankees to come back and climb on top of the Jose Marti statue. They, who desecrated our national hero, want to continue to desecrate him. Are we going to allow them to insult once more the memory of Jose Marti? Will the television that is used to educate their invader Marines ever be used to educate the Cuban youth? Will the television that is used by Bush to justify his filthy attacks such as the one on Panama ever be used to educate our youth? The Yankee television will never be used to educate the young Cuban patriots."

Concluding his remarks on the United States, the UJC president warns President Bush that "a sardine can eat a

shark. He continues: "Beware Mr. Bush, review your bedside bible and see that once upon a time little David killed giant Goliath with a stone. We have enough slings here; there are many Davids in this country and among this Cuban youth."

Robaina concludes his speech at 0035 GMT by pledging loyalty to Fidel Castro. The crowd then joins in him singing the Cuban national anthem. Live coverage of the rally ends at 0037 GMT.

* Unloading, Delivery Delays in Port System

32480230A

[Editorial Report] Havana GRANMA in Spanish in its 2 December 1989 issue on page 2 reports that 732,600 tons of cargo were unloaded in the country's ports during the month of November. Higher volumes had been expected, but heavy rains at the end of the month virtually paralyzed operations at installations in Mariel, Havana, and Matanzas and severely hampered operations in Cienfuegos. Adverse weather conditions prevented the unloading of an estimated 50,000 tons of additional cargo during that month.

The volume of cargo stored on ships which have been in port since 31 October was reduced by 97,000 tons during November. This was made possible in part by the small volume of cargo (244,000 tons less than expected) which arrived at the ports during this period.

The amount of cargo transported from ports to the interior of the country exceeded the amount which was unloaded during the month.

The situation at the port in Mariel is considered unacceptable. The port is currently holding 47,200 tons of cargo, the largest volume in memory. This is due to problems with truck transport, the only method of carrying cargo from that port. A railway to the port is expected to be completed as far as La Molina by the first quarter of 1990. An extension to Mariel will be completed after that.

Also unacceptable is the situation in Cienfuegos where inventories have risen to 27,500 tons.

The article notes the necessity for planning and organization of transport operations in order to deal with this situation.

Grenada

Governor General Scoon Dissolves Parliament

FL2712193389 Bridgetown CANA in English 1902 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Dec 27, CANA—Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon dissolved Grenada's Parliament on the advice of new Prime Minister Ben Jones on Wednesday, one day ahead of the constitutional deadline. Scoon issued a proclamation in a brief message from Government House read over state-owned Radio Grenada. General elections must be held within 90 days. Jones said on Sunday that he would soon name a date for the elections.

Five parties, including Jones' National Party (TNP), have already named candidates for the elections. At the time of the dissolution of Parliament, TNP had five MPs, the National Democratic Congress (NDC) six, and the New National Party (NNP) three.

Haiti

President Avril Tours Jacmel Area 27 December

FL2712210389 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1500 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Report by Pierre Nazon Boliere in Jacmel]

[Excerpts] General Avril and his wife arrived in Jacmel at approximately 0945 today. [passage omitted] The presidential delegation went to Cayes Jacmel, Marigot, and Peredo. They are to return to Jacmel to inaugurate the Jacmel wharf. After that, the general will go to city hall, where he will make a speech. [passage omitted]

Gonaives Prepares for Avril Tour; Paultre Visits

FL2712171289 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1200 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Economy and Finance Minister Franck Paultre visited Gonaives on 24 December. He met with the engineer for the Department of the Artibonite, Jean-Robert Jean-Noel; magistrate Alexandre Louissaint; local police chief Jean-Yves Champagne, and other prominent Gonaives citizens.

Also, National Palace Chief of Protocol Yves Massillon visited Gonaives on 25 December in preparation for Lieutenant General Prosper Avril's upcoming tour. Massillon met with Gonaives parish priest Father Louis Cineus; Monsignor Emmanuel Constant, bishop of Gonaives; and Lieutenant Colonel Dumarsais Romulus, commander of the military department of the Artibonite.

Organizations Condemn U.S. Invasion of Panama

FL2712165689 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Report by Milceus Gaspard from Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In a press release, Copol, or Coordinating Body of People's Organizations of the Artibonite; the Labadie Youth Movement; and (Ipjer), or Patriotic Union of Revolutionary Youth of Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite, have condemned the U.S. invasion of Panama on crooked pretexts.

They declare: We are in solidarity with the nationalistic fighters in Panama, Nicaragua, Brazil, and Venezuela, (?and with) the guerrillas in El Salvador and all Central American countries fighting (?blood-sucker) countries. [passage omitted]

Metropole Interviews New Government Officials

FL2712212689 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Rene Marini was installed yesterday as the new head of the Tourist Office. Marini, who has considerable experience in the sphere of tourism, thinks that it will be difficult but not impossible to relaunch Haiti's tourist industry. Financial support from the government will, however, be necessary.

[Reporter Rothschild] [passage omitted] The new head of the Tourist Office does not wish to discuss any precise plans at this time. [passage omitted]

We also briefly asked new Minister of Commerce Edmond Dupuy about the increases in the price of staples. Minister Dupuy admits this is a major problem. He says he is thinking about it.

[Begin recording] [Dupuy] We are working on it, thinking about it, because it is now a very irritating aspect. It is necessary for us to give it all our attention and find solutions to help improve the situation, until it becomes possible to (?reverse the situation and make it) much more positive. Let us just say that there is no miracle solution. There is no magic wand that will fix anything. We are working on things, and I hope that little by little, the effects of our policy will be felt by the general public.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, you are a merchant, and your fellow merchants are complaining about (?bad sales), due in particular to contraband. What is going to be done in that sphere?

[Dupuy] Everything that should, ideally, be done is going to be done. Let us say, however, that in politics—because my position is, after all, a political position, because I am a minister—one is what one can be and what one is permitted to be. Thus, I want to be the best there can be, and I hope that we will be permitted to be something valid, at least. [end recording]

Jamaica

Commission To Ship Water to Guantanamo Bay

FL2812182989 Bridgetown CANA in English 1705 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 28, CANA— Jamaica will ship water to the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba because of a severe shortage there, says managing director of the National Water Commission [NWC] Karl Bennett. But he said that this was not something new as the NWC has shipped water to the naval base in the past. He was unable to say how much water would be exported this time and from which part of the island the water would be drawn. He also could not say when the shipments would begin. However the GLEANER reported that the first shipment of water will leave Jamaica for Guantanamo Bay early next month on a U.S. barge.

The NWC managing director said the U.S. will pay 25 Jamaican dollars for each 1,000 gallons which was the standard commerical rate. Bennett said that U.S. authorities decided to look to Jamaica because of the island's water quality and its proximity to Cuba. Guantanamo Bay began looking for other sources of water after workmen on the base found that the 4 million gallons of water sent from the U.S. was contaminated and that the equipment which converts sea water to fresh water broke down.

However a spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Kingston said that spareparts for the desalination plant had already been sent to the base and there was no longer any need to ship water from Jamaica.

Montserrat

Radio Antilles 'Goes Off The Air' 29 Dec

FL2812211389 Bridgetown CANA in English 2032 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Plymouth, Montserrat, Dec 28, CANA— After 26 years, the financially strapped, West German-owned Radio Antilles will stop broadcasting to the Caribbean on Friday, General Manager Kristian Knaack said Thursday. In a newspaper advertisement, Knaack said "there are plans in the offing, however, to rebuild the station in 1990, under a new ownership, which for the first time will be an entirely Caribbean one."

Montserrat-based Radio Antilles, which has the most powerful transmitter in the region, was faced with an uncertain future after the West German owners, Deutsche Welle, said it would stop funding the station at yearend. Knaack said efforts to save the station were shattered in mid-September, when Hurricane Hugo "gave us our final blow and flattened our transmitting site, as well as our headquarters in Plymouth."

"We are especially indebted, however, to the government of Montserrat, the business community.... who all supported us so intensely in our struggle for survival, when Deutsche Welle announced its withdrawal from the Montserrat based operation," he said. Efforts by the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to secure the station have so far proved fruitless, and Chief Minister John Osborne of Montserrat told reporters he was not yet prepared to discuss the issue.

Staff at the station told CANA they have been informed that it will go off the air at noon (local time) on Friday. Knaack said he was thankful to the Caribbean staff of the station "which actually turned an assembly of technical equipment into the spirit of the Caribbean."

St. Lucia

Region's Dengue Fever Causes 'State of Alert'

FL2812192789 Bridgetown CANA in English
1806 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Dec 28, CANA— Health officials in St. Lucia have put the island on a "state of alert" following an outbreak of dengue fever in the region. Chief Medical Officer Dr. James St. Catherine said while there are no reported cases as yet, health officials are taking the necessary precautions. "The threat of dengue fever should not be taken lightly, so we want people to really treat it as if it is going to be here, as I have no doubt that it will spread to St. Lucia," St. Catherine said.

"In fact it may be here but.... not yet transferred to the human body as we have not had one reported case...." he added. St. Catherine said the Health Ministry had stepped up efforts to combat the breeding of mosquitoes, urging people to assist by ensuring that their surroundings are kept clean.

The Trinidad-based Caribbean Epidemology Centre (Carec) has urged regional states to step up the fight against dengue fever, and has warned of a possibility of a major outbreak of the disease. Dengue fever has been reported this year in the Bahamas, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Martinque, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, and Venezuela. Dengue tends to cause a five-day fever with severe headaches, and eye, joint and muscle pains.

Government is to embark on a major publicity campaign to educate St. Lucians on the dangers of the dengue fever. "Should you develop a fever at this time you should report it to the local health authorities, regardless of whether it is an ordinary viral illness or dengue," St. Catherine said.

128 Citizens Repatriated From Panama

FL2912050789 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Excerpts] The second group of Mexicans returned this afternoon from Panama. Following high-level negotiations conducted by the Mexican Foreign Ministry, 94 people were brought back to Mexico in an Air Force plane. [passage omitted]

The arrival of this group has brought to 128 the total number of Mexicans repatriated from Panama. [passage omitted].

Nuncio Says Vatican Will Not Turn Noriega In

FL2912045989 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Jeronimo Prigione, the papal representative in Mexico, has categorically stated that the Vatican will not yield to any U.S. pressure to turn in Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Prigione said the doors of the Nunciature in Panama were opened to Noriega to save his life, not to defend him.

[Begin Prigione recording] For these reasons, I do not believe the Holy See will turn Noriega over to the Americans. In so doing, I repeat, the Vatican does not intend to defend criminals. It neither condemns nor acquits. It is up to the courts to try and to sentence, based on the evidence produced, those responsible for their actions. [end recording]

Upon reiterating that there is no extradition treaty between the Vatican and the United States, Prigione said:

[Begin Prigione recording] This is why I believe the Holy See will not yield to pressure. In so doing, I repeat, the Holy See is in no way seeking to obstruct the course of justice, but justice should be served in a legitimate way, without violence, and free from passion. [end recording]

As precedent, Prigione cited two cases: When Endara himself sought refuge at the Nunciature; and in 1972, when he was the papal nuncio in El Salvador, he gave shelter to three guerrillas who later obtained safe-conducts to leave for Argentina.

Costa Rica

Country Recognizes New Panamanian Government

PA2712195789 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1919 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] San Jose, 27 Dec (DPA)—Today, Costa Rica recognized the new Panamanian Government headed by Guillermo Endara and will soon send its ambassador to Panama.

The recognition is effective today, but the Costa Rican ambassador will arrive in Panama in January since he is attending new year festivities in Costa Rica, and government offices are closed.

Oscar Arias' personal secretary Jorge Regidor is the Costa Rican ambassador to Panama who was appointed last April, but did not assume his post as a result of the annulment of the Panamanian 7 May elections.

On that occasion, the Costa Rican Government issued a clear statement indicating that "the will of the Panamanian people has been flouted in the elections in which Guillermo Endara was elected president of Panama."

Two days ago, Panamanian Foreign Minister Julio Linares called Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal and gave him detailed information on the situation in Panama.

In late October, Endara participated as an observer in the American meeting of presidents, which gathered 18 presidents to San Jose.

El Salvador

San Salvador Press Views Situation in Panama

PY2812140889

[Editorial Report] San Salvador LA PRENSA in Spanish on 27 Dec 1989 on page 7 carries two editorials scoring the situation in Panama. The 300-word editorial entitled "The Outcome in Panama" describes how "after a lengthy and growing state of crisis caused by Noriega's stubbornness" the situation in Panama resulted in the direct military intervention of U.S. troops.

After justifying the invasion as a "last resort," the editorial says that the U.S. action was not unexpected, "although there were doubts about the use of military power due to the complexity and the sensitivity of decision-making in Washington on sending troops to fight abroad." It then says that real dictators do not understand diplomatic reasoning nor do they listen to the clamors of their people, and "for this reason there is no alternative but to overthrow them in a violent manner.

The editorial concludes by saying that "the OAS has 'deeply regretted' what happened in Panama on 20 December. This is the same OAS that failed in its efforts to find diplomatic solutions to the Panamanian crisis." It adds that there is a consensus among Latin American presidents, except for the hot-tempered ones like Alan Garcia, that the invasion was inevitable.

The second 200-word editorial is entitled "Dictators Never Learn." It begins by saying that history has taught us that power is a dangerous drug, and that absolute power creates an incurable addiction. It says that dictators believe and see what they want, that they live in a world of paranoid fantasy. "It was like this that Noriega created a ridiculous 'state of war' against the United States, and it was like this that Castro believes that the ultimate 'offensive' of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has been a full success." It adds that sometimes, as in the case of Panama, the dictator, well armed by his narcoterrorist allies, and taking advantage of the international detente situation, has organized from his bunker the vandalic 'dignity battalions' to cause chaos and destruction. "This man is clever, but not as clever as he thought. His temerity has provoked a foreign military intervention. A regrettable but inevitable event, given the conditions created by the dictatorship. It is important to remember that Noriega has gone and only Castro and Ortega remain. Their time will come," the editorial concludes.

San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish on 26 December 1989 on page 12 carries another editorial stating that "Central America is once again facing the threat of an intervention like the last Yankee aggression that was unleashed in Latin America." It then lists previous aggressions: The attack on the Malvinas and the destruction of Puerto Soledad (1831); The annexation of Texas and millions of square kilometers to the U.S. territory; The invasion of Central America by William Walker; The occupation of Cuba and the Platt Amendment; The 3 interventions in Santo Domingo, the 17 in Honduras, the 16 in Nicaragua, the 10 in Guatemala, etc. Then it states: "U.S. intervention has always been present in Latin America, and for this reason the U.S. intervention in Panama is not new for us."

The editorial concludes by saying that Panama could become another Vietnam because the empire has forgotten the Vietnam lesson."

* FMLN Said To Conscript Minors in Usulutan

32480229A

[Editorial Report] The San Salvador Spanish-language newspaper EL MUNDO of 4 December 1989 reports on page 6 the contents of a Vice Ministry of Public Security press communique which states that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] continues to conscript minors. Last week the FMLN reportedly killed two youths in Hacienda Urrera, Usulutan, for refusing to join the guerrilla forces. In Porvenir, Piedra Pacha, Hacienda Urrera, Primavera, and San Felipe the FMLN have tried to conscript 14-year-old youths who have had to flee to El Transito. The communique states that the populations of these areas are extremely concerned by

"the terror and crimes of the FMLN as well as the constant human rights violations by these criminal groups."

Scotland Yard To Investigate Priests' Murder

PY2812112489 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 27 Dec 89 p 2

[Text] It was reported yesterday that three experienced Scotland Yard detectives will come to El Salvador to investigate the murder of the six Jesuit priests.

The sources added that the British prime minister has answered President Cristiani's request by sending the European detectives.

Authorized sources have said that the three British detectives from this world renowned police institute will arrive on 2 January. The detectives are: Chief Detective Tony Comben, Inspector Robert Webster, and Sergeant John Porter.

According to the report, the three were chosen from among the best British detectives because they are the most experienced, capable, and specialized in this type of investigation.

As it was reported then, Rector Ignacio Ellacuria and Fathers Ignacio Martin Baro, Segundo Montes, Joaquin Lopez y Lopez, Amado Lopez, and Juan Ramon Moreno were killed in their residence next to the Jose Simeon Canas Central American University (UCA) on 16 November. Their cook and her 15-year-old daughter were also killed.

Cables received from London have confirmed that yesterday the British Foreign Relations Secretariat announced Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's decision.

Guatemala

Contra Role in Nicaragua Diplomat's Death Denied

PY2712211189 Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa in Spanish 1230 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] It has not been proved that there are members of the Nicaraguan contras in Guatemala. A report on the alleged clandestine presence of some 5,000 Nicaraguans has not been confirmed. This report, which was attributed to a minister of state, was denied yesterday by the interior minister [ministro de governacion]. According to this report, the first secretary of the Nicaraguan Embassy was murdered by a group of Nicaraguan contras.

Security Increased at Embassies, Residences

PA2812172089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1615 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 28 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Official Guatemalan Government spokesperson Claudia Arenas advised today that the Guatemalan Government redoubled the protection around the embassies and ambassadors' residences of the diplomatic corps accredited to Guatemala after the murder of the second secretary of the Nicaraguan Embassy.

Venezuelan Cipriano Fuentes, president of the diplomatic corps accredited to Guatemala, asked the Guatemalan Government on 26 December to increase its protection "to avoid a repetition of what happened to Nicaraguan diplomat Jorge Adolfo Vargas.

Vargas was shot to death on a street in the northern end of Guatemala City on 21 December by a group of unidentified men, who were riding in a vehicle with tinted windows.

Arenas said: "According to the decision by the Government Ministry, the Guatemalan security forces redoubled security measures around embassies and ambassadors' residences."

The source pointed out that the request sent by the diplomatic corps was taken into account by the government, but that the authorities automatically took the initiative and implemented certain mechanisms to provide diplomats with more security.

Journalists Group Condemns Attack on Newspapers

PY2812233989 Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa in Spanish 1230 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] The APG [Association of Guatemalan Journalists] has condemned the attack on the distributors of the newspapers EL GRAFICO and PRENSA LIBRE [words indistinct].

The APG has strongly condemned the attacks against the distributors of the EL GRAFICO and PRENSA LIBRE newspapers. In the attacks, several thousand copies of EL GRAFICO and PRENSA LIBRE were burned, as was a PRENSA LIBRE vehicle.

The APG says that it supports public claims that the two morning newspapers made jointly. It is also asking the authorities to investigate this campaign, which the APG describes as an intimidation campaign against the national press.

The APG expresses solidarity with the two newspapers involved.

Also, the APG expresses its serious concern over such attacks, which could represent the beginning of a campaign of unpredictable consequences.

This, the APG says, not only damages the newspapers involved and their workers but also those who, abiding by the laws, dedicate themselves to the professional practice of journalism, especially now that the country is at the door of the presidential political campaign.

International Red Cross Offices Bombed

PY2812210689 Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa in Spanish 1230 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Last night, unknown persons threw a fragmentation grenade at the International Red Cross offices in the (?old) district of Guatemala City. The explosion damaged the building and disturbed the neighbors, especially those near the U.S. Embassy, which is located a few blocks from the site of the explosion.

The terrorist device did not kill or injure anyone at the International Red Cross offices because at the time of the bombing no one was inside the building, with the exception of a policeman, who fortunately was not hurt.

Mr (Thierry Schoelins), the chief of the International Red Cross mission, is now in Geneva, Switzerland, and will return within a few days.

The reasons for the attack against this international service organization are unknown.

Honduras

More UN Observers Arrive for Border Surveillance

PY2812234889 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 28 Dec 89 p 9

[Text] Tegucigalpa—In an official communique the UN Group of Observers in Central America (ONUCA) on 27 December announced the arrival of 25 officers in Tegucigalpa and 10 helicopters for surveillance operations on the border. The text of the communique states:

General Agustin Quesada Gomez, chief of the ONUCA group, this morning announced that 7 officers from Colombia, 10 from Ireland, and 8 from Venezuela are expected to arrive in Tegucigalpa from Colombia on 27 December to begin the second stage of ONUCA activities.

The implementation of this second stage, which was scheduled to begin early in January, will be carried out in the shortest possible time in response to a call made by the five Central American presidents during their recent meeting in San Isidro de Coronado, Costa Rica.

It is expected that in this second stage ONUCA will have 100 military observers assigned to its headquarters, to 5 liaison offices, and to 10 verification centers that are spread among the five countries of the region. It is also expected that a helicopter squadron will also participate in the beginning of this stage.

Spokesman Denies Nicaraguan Airspace Violation

PY2812205489 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Dec 89 p 5

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Honduran Foreign Ministry spokesman Eugenio Castro yesterday termed "speculation" a Sandinist government charge that planes that took off from Honduran territory overflew Nicaraguan territory and that they were repelled by antiaircraft fire.

Castro based his remark on the principle that the Honduran Government cannot promote the violation of Nicaraguan airspace.

Nicaragua charged that on the evening of 28 December, a plane coming from either Honduras or El Salvador overflew its territory, specifically the area near the Managua airport.

Castro stressed that the Foreign Ministry has received no official Nicaraguan note on the subject.

Agricultural Agreement Signed With Taiwan

PA2812122689 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] The governments of the republics of China and Honduras signed a new agreement for technical assistance and agricultural cooperation on 18 December. The agreement's goal is to improve nutrition rate and increase productivity. It was signed by Chinese Ambassador Huang Chuam-li and Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras. The agreement stipulates that the Republic of China will send technical and agriculture missions to Honduras. The missions' trained personnel are to assist Hondurans in crops deemed to be priority. Natural Resources Minister Jose Montenegro [title as heard] and Luis Alonso Quesada, deputy natural resources minister in charge of agriculture and cattle-raising, were present at the signing ceremony. Also present where the head of the technical and agriculture mission in Honduras, (Chu Chou Chen), and other officials of the Chinese embassy in Tegucigalpa, as well as officials from the Honduran Foreign Ministry.

Commercial Exchange Accord Signed With Bulgaria

PA2812134889 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Dec 89 p 9

[Text] Tegucigalpa—A trade agreement between Honduras and Bulgaria has been signed at the Honduran Ministry of Economy, similar to agreements signed with the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia.

The documents were signed by Economy Minister Reginaldo Panting, in the name of the Honduran Government, and Stiliyan Burkhanlarski, Bulgarian Ambassador to Nicaragua.

Speaking in perfect Spanish, Burkhanlarski expressed to reporters his satisfaction with the signing of the agreement. Once ratified by the Honduran National Congress

and National Assembly, the agreement will serve to exchange 31 Bulgarian and 9 Honduran products.

"This will be a commercial exchange based on equality of rights. We will seek mutual benefits and become partners in the trade of several products. I regard this agreement as a harbinger in the recognition of peoples," Burjanlarski said.

The cooperation will include maritime transport and samples of products manufactured in the two countries, which will be presented in international expositions.

The Bulgarian Ambassador said that the commercial exchange will not be based on barter, but on international market prices and freely convertible foreign currency. If another mechanism comes up over the course of the relationship, however, it will be applied once an accord has been reached.

The Bulgarian official said that the agreement with Honduras started when the surprising changes in the socialist world came about and that openings to Western countries have not yet been considered. This is a positive fact, because any door opened between two peoples offers them the possibility of getting acquainted with one another and coming closer together.

Burkhanlarski said that Bulgaria is especially interested in Honduran coffee. Bulgarians have been relishing a cup of coffee for the past 20 years, contrary to previous times, when they drank only tea.

Nicaragua

Envoy Submits UN Resolution on U.S. Invasion

PA2812204489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1942 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] United Nations, 28 Dec (EFE)—Alejandro Serrano, Nicaraguan ambassador to the United Nations, today introduced a resolution before the UN General Assembly "deeply deploring the intervention in Panama by U.S. forces." The Nicaraguan envoy was the only speaker today at the Assembly after a long recess and after the UN devoted its attention to a resolution on Romania "urging" the international community to give emergency humanitarian aid to that country in central Europe.

Once the draft resolution was introduced, the Assembly announced that it would resume tomorrow at 1030 to consider the topic. According to the provisional list of speakers, a Panamanian representative will speak, although it is not known if the matter of the credentials of new ambassador Eduardo Vallarino will be resolved on time.

The Group of Eight (comprised of Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela, and Uruguay; Panama was excluded from the Latin American group because of its internal political situation) wrote a new draft resolution. However, Brazil refused to sign it on instructions from his government. The draft resolution, as the other one, deplores "U.S. intervention in Panama and asks for its immediate end." The Nicaraguan ambassador told newsmen "Intervention or invasion, it is all the same; this is just a question of emphasis, periods, and commas,"

Alejandro Serrano reiterated the charge against the United States and its insistent interventionist attitude, which had been brought up at the UN Security Council, and reaffirmed that the U.S. military intervention in Panama "affects the stability of the Central American region." "We trust that this General Assembly will assume its historic duty and demand the total and immediate withdrawal of the United States and their invading troops from Panamanian territory," Serrano said.

U.S. Embassy Supply Plane Delayed in Retaliation

PA2912020689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0020 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Managua, 28 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Government announced today that it will not move two of its planes from the Panama City airport because the United States will not allow 165 Nicaraguan citizens to leave the country by air. The Nicaraguan citizens, most of whom are businessmen, were trapped in Panama by the U.S. invasion.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry today issued a communique, which was made available to ACAN-EFE, rejecting a decision by U.S. officials to allow the two Nicaraguan planes and their crews to return to Managua on 30 December, but not with the 165 Nicaraguan citizens.

Also, according to the communique, U.S. officials are not allowing the body of Nicaraguan Carlos Lopez Moralez, who was killed during the U.S. invasion of Panama on 20 December, to be returned to Managua.

A short time after the U.S. military intervention in Panama, the United States refused to allow the two planes—belonging to the Nicaraguan Airline "Aeronica,-" one of which was damaged by gunfire from U.S. helicopters—or the 165 Nicaraguans to depart.

In response, Managua announced on 27 December that it would not allow the landing of a cargo plane from the United States that supplies the U.S. Embassy in Managua.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry advised the United States of its decision to delay the landing of the U.S. supply plane in Managua 1 week for each day that the departure of the Nicaraguan aircraft in Panama is delayed.

The source indicated that if the Nicaraguan aircraft and citizens are authorized to leave Panama today, the U.S. Government could send its aircraft on 2 February, but if

the decision is delayed until tomorrow, the U.S. plane will not be allowed to land in Nicaragua until 9 February.

Pending the resolution of the situation, the Sandinist government has hired a bus and a minivan to take 51 of the Nicaraguan citizens back to Managua by land on 28 December.

Noriega's Fall, Affect on Nicaragua Assessed

PA2812122089 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Dec 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Panama After Noriega"]

[Text] Noriega's surprising request for asylum at the Apostolic Nunciature put a dramatic end to the Panamanian crisis. He, like other dictators who were submitted to great pressure, eventually remembered the dollars he had stashed away in Switzerland and ran for safety, leaving behind his naive and fanatical followers.

Somoza Debayle did something similar when he left for Miami at midnight in a helicopter gunship. Now the courageous Noriega, who had promised to "win or die," has given up his promise to take to the mountains and lead a liberation war. He has packed his bags and begged for asylum for humanitarian reasons.

The "solidarity battalions" that the Sandinists were organizing will undoubtedly have to wait a long time, and the cannons mounted in the streets of Managua will have to be returned to their protective covers.

Noriega's circus act could have been avoided if he had accepted Felipe Gonzalez' offer to grant him asylum in Spain if he had been pardoned by U.S. justice. It is now too late for those arrangements.

Noriega's shelter will nevertheless bring diplomatic complications. The Vatican does not have an extradition treaty with the United States and it will not want to turn him over, or to have him as a permanent guest.

Moreover, the Panamanian Constitution forbids the extradition of its citizens under any pretext. Everything seems to indicate that the Washington - Vatican talks will continue for a long time.

The Endara administration will face many problems once order is restored and the U.S. Armed Forces' withdrawal is announced. First, Panama's destroyed economy must be rebuilt once peace is achieved. A national reconciliation is essential to achieve this and to start strengthening the government parties' unity.

There will surely be a significant program to compensate and repair damaged property and to attend those affected by the bloody battles waged in the Panamanian capital's streets.

The lesson learned from all this is that drug traffickers can rest assured that they will be countered at every level and in any way, without concern for legal niceties. Colombia and Peru will find themselves facing similar alternatives sooner or later.

The loss of their ally, Gen Noriega, will have unpleasant repercussions for the Sandinists. For the moment, the triangular trade with Panamanian commerce will languish and then disappear. The Canadian alternative has already proved its weakness in the meat case. Cuba will also lose a mainland post that was very useful from the intelligence and commerce point of view.

Finally, the Panamanian crisis taught the Sandinists it is easy to make a fool of oneself when fanaticism intervenes. Their agitprop machinery strived to create sympathy for Noriega by issuing a subliminal message which depicted the Panamanian general as Sandino incarnate repeating the anti-imperialist struggle. They could not have been more inaccurate or anti-patriotic. The general of free men [Sandino] was never on U.S. imperialism's payroll and he did not traffic in illegal businesses. His life was always modest and full of sacrifices, and, what is more important, he never sought asylum or fled from battle.

Sandino certainly fulfilled his own slogan: Free homeland or death.

UNO Feels Threatened by Defense Ministry

PA2912013389 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2308 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] The Political Council of the National Opposition Union [UNO] is currently in a meeting with Dr Arnaldo Zuniga Montenegro to approve and submit a protest to international organizations, stating that the political organization feels threatened by an internal Defense Ministry measure.

Since there is no death penalty in Nicaragua, the UNO leaders say they feel that their human and political rights are threatened by the special Defense Ministry communique which announced plans for the neutralization and execution of turncoats. The special Defense Ministry communique will be used by some Sandinist officers to carry out acts of personal vengeance by simply accusing any Nicaraguan of being a turncoat.

The UNO leaders say this is an act of intimidation, but opposition activists must take into consideration that there are electoral observers—and this underhanded threat will be officially reported at the United Nations and the OAS. The UNO leaders also said that they did not know the Defense Ministry had specialized personnel to evaluate which Nicaraguan is a turncoat so he may be neutralized and executed.

FSLN 'Fanning a Climate of War'

PA2812184789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1727 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Managua, 28 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan National Opposition Union (UNO) today charged that the Sandinist government is "fanning a climate of war," by calling for the "assassination" of opposition leaders if the United States invades Nicaragua.

Luis Sanchez, UNO spokesman, termed "a direct assassination threat" the call made by the Sandinist government led by Daniel Ortega against the members of the opposition, if the United States decides to invade this country.

Sanchez made his statements on a private station in Managua, hours after the government repeatedly broadcast over a radio network an Army communique, issuing instructions in the event Nicaragua is invaded.

The Nicaraguan Government ordered the deployment of its troops on 27 December in view of the threat of a U.S. invasion against Nicaragua. It called for the "implementation of neutralization plans, to cut off and execute the sellouts who have underhandedly been encouraging a U.S. invasion."

The Sandinist People's Army [EPS] command issued the order after it charged that two unidentified aircraft overflew Nicaraguan territory on the night of 26 December. Managua criticized this act as a "threatening and provocating action."

Sanchez stated that "there is the impression that the government party is creating a war psychosis, a situation of uneasiness, of emotional and political instability in the country."

"The Army communique contains a direct threat of assassination," he said, adding that in a country where the death penalty is nonexistent, the Sandinists are considering "political assassinations."

The UNO spokesperson explained that the Nicaraguan regime considers sellouts "those persons who oppose the government" of Daniel Ortega, among whom he cited Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo and, without mentioning names, labor and business leaders who object to a large part of the economy becoming state-owned.

Also, he added that the Sandinists describe as "sellouts" those who claim that (Manuel Antonio) Noriega is and has been an international drug trafficker.

Defense Ministry Reports Contras Kill 3 Peasants

PA2912023789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0034 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Managua, 28 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry reported today that three peasants were killed by a group of contras in northern Nicaragua, a day after they were kidnapped.

The source indicated that seven peasants were kidnapped on 26 December in different hamlets in southwest Condega municipality, northern Esteli Department, and that the bodies of three of these peasants were found at Cerro El Mono on 27 December.

The peasants who were killed have been identified as Jose Alejandro, Jose Esteban Olivas, and Reinaldo Caballero, the military source added.

According to the Defense Ministry, the anti-Sandinist rebels kidnapped four more peasants in El Naranjo, in southeastern Condega municipality, on 27 December.

Panama

Cuban Ambassador Said Arrested by U.S. Troops

PA2812215889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2130 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 29 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Lazaro Mora, Cuban ambassador to Panama, was arrested today at the door of his home by U.S. troops, his wife Maria Elena de Mora has reported.

The ambassador's wife told ACAN-EFE that the ambassador was arrested along with secretary Alberto Cabrera and commercial adviser Oscar Barulio at 1610 and that the three were taken to an unknown destination with a U.S. tank with registration number 511 MP-300.

The ambassador and secretary were arrested at the door of the residence, which for the past several days has been surrounded by U.S. troops.

So far the report has not been confirmed by witnesses or by the U.S. Southern Command, which maintains that approximately 65 people have sought refuge at the Cuban Embassy in Panama.

Cuban Ambassador Comments

PA2912023589 Paris AFP in Spanish 0140 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 28 Dec (AFP)—Lazaro Mora, Cuban ambassador to Panama, today accused the U.S. troops that are occupying Panama of violating the Geneva Convention and warned that Cuba "will defend, at any cost," the diplomatic laws that protect its representatives in Panama City.

Mora, in statements made via telephone, accused the U.S. Southern Command troops that invaded Panama on 20 December of "violating international law" when they arrested him and another Cuban Embassy official.

Mora described as "serious" the action of the U.S. troops, who this afternoon arrested Alberto Cabrera, first secretary of the Cuban Embassy, to "verify his identity" at the time that he was entering his home in the Altos del Golf neighborhood in Panama City.

"Cabrera was carrying—as I was—the documents that identify him as a diplomat; however, the U.S. troops said they had to arrest him. I objected and we were then taken to a headquarters in Panama Viejo. We were released an hour later after they confirmed what they already knew," Mora added.

The Cuban diplomat said that the soldiers who arrested him, supported by two military vehicles, said that they were carrying out "orders from their superiors." "Before we were released an officer apologized and said that it had all been a regrettable mistake," the ambassador added. Ambassador Mora described the incident as a "harassment action" by the invading troops.

The United States as well as the new Panamanian Government, installed by Washington following the invasion of the U.S. troops, have accused Cuba of having supplied weapons and military guidance to General Manuel Antonio Noriega's overthrown regime. Noriega has sought refuge at the Apostolic Nunciature in Panama City.

When asked whether he feared an action against the residence or the embassy, where an unknown number of Cubans and Panamanians, including 23 children, have taken refuge, Ambassador Mora said that "this would be a very serious violation of the Geneva Convention."

"It would be an unheard of action," Mora said, adding that "the residence as well as the embassy are part of Cuban territory, and we are willing to defend them at any cost."

Sources linked to the new Panamanian Government have said that Gen. Noriega's wife, Felicidad Sieiro de Noriega, his daughters, and other key collaborators of the regime, are at the Cuban Embassy.

Meanwhile, the Cuban diplomat described as "ridiculous" the charges that the Cuban diplomatic pouch was being used to send weapons to Gen. Noriega.

"The contents of a diplomatic pouch cannot supply an army. To say this is ridiculous and is part of a campaign orchestrated by the United States," the ambassador stressed.

Mora also said that Washington should respect the commitments made by the State Department "through its Interests Section in Havana." The State Department has promised "to respect representatives of Cuba around the world."

The diplomat also said that the people who sought refuge at the Cuban Embassy, which is surrounded by U.S. soldiers, have no food problems because "we solved that problem with the help of other Latin American representatives."

The Cuban ambassador refused to comment on statements made by some officials of the new Panamanian Government, who said that Panama will probably break relations with Cuba and Libya.

"We are also carrying out high-level talks, and in the next few days we will announce our decision in this regard," Mora said.

Government Not To Grant Noriega Safe-Conduct

PA2812211189 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2023 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 28 Dec (DPA)—A high-ranking Panamanian Government official today said that the Panamanian Government will not grant former General Manuel Antonio Noriega safe-conduct to leave the country.

For the past 4 days, Panama's former strongman has remained at the Apostolic Nunciature in Panama City where he sought refuge to avoid being captured by U.S. troops who want to take him to Florida to face drug-trafficking charges.

According to the official, in light of the Vatican's decision not to grant Noriega the status of political refugee and to only consider him a guest, Noriega will not be able to leave Panama and seek asylum in a third country without the Panamanian Government's safe-conduct.

It was also learned that the new Panamanian attorney general, Rogelio Cruz, is studying an extradition treaty signed with the United States in 1904 to evaluate the possiblity of handing Noriega over to U.S. justice.

Noriega, Officers Surrender Weapons

PA2812130189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0522 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Report by Andreu Claret]

[Text] Panama City, 28 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—General Manuel Antonio Noriega and the other Panamanian military personnel who took refuge in the nunciature on Sunday, 24 December, "gradually" turned in the many weapons they brought with them into the Vatican Embassy.

The weapons, which included pistols and assault rifles, were turned over to the U.S. Army, as part of the complex negotiations being carried out by the nuncio, Monsignor Sebastian Laboa, a Spaniard, with the U.S. Southern Command.

Noriega himself arrived at the nunciature carrying a machine gun, which is already in the hands of the U.S. troops that have surrounded the embassy in great numbers with armored personnel carriers to prevent the general from escaping.

"No weapons remain here," the nuncio said, happy that one of the factors that worsened tension with the troops surrounding the building had disappeared.

Ambassadors who were in the nunciature shortly after Noriega's arrival confirmed that the first few hours were characterized by "enormous tension."

"The Americans were on the verge of storming the embassy," one diplomat said. He disclosed that among the demands made by the U.S. troops was that all the nuns be evacuated, while helicopter gunships flew over the embassy, and about 500 soldiers in combat gear established a siege in the area.

During 4 days of intensive negotiations since Noriega arrived at the Vatican's Embassy, so far all that has been achieved is that some of the people who arrived with him have left—three officers and several high-ranking officials of the former regime, with their families.

Lieutenant Colonel Nivaldo Madrinan, former head of the National Department of Investigations, and Captain Elieser Gaitan, the general's security chief, remain in the embassy with Noriega.

Also remaining are Immigration Director Belgica de Castillo, her husband, four Spaniards belonging to the ETA terrorist band—who had been deported to Panama with the Spanish government's knowledge—the wife of one of them, and a Cuban citizen.

Reports from inside the Nunciature confirm that the general is "increasingly alone," and that he spends most of his time in a room on the first floor, having no contact with his former comrades-in-arms.

On Tuesday, the 3d day, he did not even come out into the small courtyard where he had been seen early on the two previous mornings, wearing khaki-colored bermuda shorts and a towel around his neck as he picked up clothes hung on a line.

Those who have seen him say that Noriega is "weak, nervous, and uncommunicative." On Wednesday, he ate by himself, on the first floor, without going down to the main table located on a porch in another of the courtyards on the embassy grounds where the other diners eat.

Sources close to Laboa say that only the nuncio has spoken with Noriega, who has not wanted, or been able to talk with one of his U.S. lawyers, Raymond Takif, who called him yesterday from Miami.

So far, the many meetings held by the nuncio; his secretary, Jose Spiteri; and priest Francisco Villanueva, with U.S. officers, have been devoted more to agreeing on conditions for the departure of other refugees than to examining the Noriega case.

"The U.S. attitude is determined by the existence of indictments on drug trafficking," according to one European ambassador who is closely following the course of events.

Indeed, the Southern Command arrested Major Luis del Cid and sent him immediately to the United States, although he had surrendered voluntarily, because his name is included in cases pending with judges in Miami, along with that of Noriega.

On the other hand, most of the officers who surrendered to the Americans were released and, in many cases, have been reinstated in the service, despite their links to the general, if there is nothing pending against them with regard to drug trafficking, according to the United States.

This could make it possible to resolve the status of Lt. Col. Madrinan and Capt. Gaitan within the next few hours, because so far, they are not included on the lists established by Washington as possible drug traffickers. They have requested political asylum in Spain.

All sources consulted agree that Noriega's fate is "very uncertain."

ACAN-EFE learned from Panamanian ecclesiastical sources that the Vatican supports the efforts of the nuncio, which are based on the premise that it is impossible to "turn him over to the United States, just like that," and of seeking, in every case, commitments that guarantee humane treatment in U.S. courts.

Sources close to Laboa said that, so far, the only possibility that has been ruled out is having Noriega remain in Panama and that the "knocking on all doors" is continuing to see if there is a possibility of asylum in a third country, if the United States agrees.

Madrinan, Gaitan Request Asylum From Spain

PA2812124589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0547 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 28 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Lieutenant Colonel Nivaldo Madrinan and Captain Eliecer Gaitan, two Panamanian officers who had sought refuge at the Apostolic Nunciature in Panama, have asked the Spanish government for political asylum, a military source has reported.

The two men sought refuge at the nunciature shortly after the start of the U.S. military invasion intended to capture General Manuel Antonio Noriega and which has resulted in the deaths of 297 Panamanian soldiers and the detention of several thousand.

Madrinan, former director of the National Department of Investigations [DENI], and Gaitan, chief of Noriega's personal security, have refused to leave the nunciature, like other officers, to surrender to the U.S. troops that surround the Vatican's Embassy and have occupied the country with more than 26,000 men.

The request for asylum has already been reported to the Spanish Government, which is considering it, the source added.

The two officers are in the nunciature with Noriega, who arrived later, to ask for asylum also, either in Spain or Cuba.

The Spanish Government, however, dismissed the possibility of direct intervention in Noriega's fate and denied receiving, much less accepting, a request for asylum from Noriega.

Madrinan was one of the officers closest to Noriega, whom he defended during an attempted coup on 3 October, when Madrinan was wounded.

Madrinan was a staff member and, as DENI director, participated in operations to capture drug traffickers in close cooperation with the DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] when Panama and the United States had good relations.

It was impossible to get information from the Spanish Embassy in Panama to determine whether the Madrid government contemplates the possibility of offering asylum to both officers.

In case Spain agrees to offer them political asylum, the former officers would require authorization from the U.S. Army to leave the nunciature.

Nuncio Laboa Denies U.S. Soldiers Searched Him

PA2812175689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1707 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 28 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—The Papal Nuncio in Panama Sebastian Laboa today stated that reports saying he has been searched by U.S. soldiers surrounding the diplomatic quarters—where General Manuel Antonio Noriega sought refuge—are false.

"It is not true, they have never searched me, it must be someone else," the Spanish archbishop told ACAN-EFE, when asked about a picture that an international news agency distributed to its consumers. The picture shows a man with his hands up, standing in front of the nunciature entrance door, while the man and his vehicle are searched by U.S. authorities.

According to the caption written by the news agency, the man with his hands up is Laboa. However, he insisted that report is false.

Laboa confirmed to ACAN-EFE that he has authorized the U.S. troops to intervene in the Vatican Embassy if General Noriega or other Panamanian soldiers, who entered armed, take the nuncio or his employees hostage.

"That was a normal precaution, but the risk is over," Laboa said. He explained that most of the weapons with which the soldiers entered the nunciature are no longer at the Vatican Embassy.

Laboa pointed out that this was only verbal authorization, and that there is no written document in this regard, as some of the media have reported.

Concerning the psychological operations the U.S. soldiers are conducting outside the diplomatic headquarters, apparently to affect Noriega—such as loudspeakers with rock music at the highest volume, and continuous deployment of tanks, which are passing near the walls surrounding the nunciature—Laboa said this is not affecting him.

"Thank God, the nuncio has a well-balanced mind and a healthy liver. I can stand that and still remain calmn," Laboa said.

Vice President Ford Discusses National Situation

PA2912042289 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2309 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Interview with Guillermo Ford, second vice president and planning and economic policy minister, by unidentified reporters in Panama City on 27 December—recorded]

[Text] [Ford] We have begun the process of normalization. One of the serious problems we have found is the great destruction at many government offices. The president has ordered the ministers to begin cleaning and organizing their offices and to determine the extent of damage. What we are doing is slowly resuming internal work at these offices so later we can offer services to the public. The Attorney General's Office is already working. Rogelio Cruz has been appointed attorney general. Two special district attorneys have also been appointed. At this time we are studying the reorganization of the court. However, it is important to add that this government is strictly adhering to the Constitution and the laws. We cannot fire an official if he was appointed according to the Constitution and the law. We will have to change the current magistrates in accordance with the law.

[Reporter] What about the Legislative Assembly?

[Ford] I believe that it will constituted by 2 January. We have the tally sheets. They are going to be counted. We know who won and all those who won, including the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], PALA [Labor Party], and all the other legislators who won, will be in the Legislative Assembly.

In those positions where there is no proof of a specific winner, we will suggest an immediate election because, I repeat, the days of choosing winners are over. The president will not appoint anyone except those appointments he may make in accordance with the laws and Constitution. He may appoint the ministers and other officials, but elective offices will have to be won with votes.

[Reporter] What about the salaries of government employees?

[Ford] I do not have the exact figures, but, as of today, we are honoring all postdated checks. The banks are cashing all those checks. This money can be used to pay bills, to leave in the bank, to do whatever the person wants to do.

[Reporter] What has the international reaction to the new government been?

[Ford] I do not have the list. I have not been able to speak to the foreign minister, but based on the legitimacy given us by the Panamanian people and legality given us by the Electoral Tribunal, this is a government formed in accordance with the people's will. We are proud to be able to represent the majority of the Panamanian people, and we are working, night and day, for the immediate recovery of the country based on reconciliation. However, there are still some criminals—those misnamed Dignity Battalions—who do not seem to be Panamanians. We want to protect the lives and honor of the Panamanian people, so that running in front of a bullet will be past history once and for all.

PALA's Sieiro Recognizes Endara Victory

PA2812220489 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2043 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 29 Dec (DPA)—Ramon Sieiro, General Manuel Antonio Noriega's brother-in-law and secretary of the Labor Party, today recognized Guillermo Endara's victory in Panama's 7 May presidential elections.

In statements to DPA by telephone, Sieiro said the Electoral Tribunal proclamation yesterday declaring Endara president of Panama, after the vote tally sheets were audited, is a decision that strengthens democracy in the country.

Sieiro, who was also a vice presidential candidate on the government slate that ran against Endara in the May elections, explained that prior to and during the electoral campaign he advocated a national dialogue to achieve reconciliation among Panamanians, which now more than ever is necessary, but at that time it was the subject of "bitter attacks and misunderstandings."

Ramon Sieiro was criticized by pro-Noriega newsman Baltazar Renan Aizpurua, who on one occasion described him even as a U.S. Embassy agent.

Sieiro avoided making statements regarding the situation currently being faced by Gen. Noriega, who has been at the Apostolic Nunciature for the past 4 days.

Sieiro Statement

PA2812225089 Panama City Radio Mia in Spanish 2126 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Statement by Ramon Sieiro, Labor Party, PALA, secretary general; date of the communique not given; broadcast in progress—read by announcer]

[Text] ... recognize the electoral victory of Guillermo Endara Galimany as president, Ricardo Arias Calderon as first vice president, and Guillermo Ford as second vice president. Because I believe firmly in truth and *justice, I am addressing the Panamanian people to make* this statement as former vice presidential candidate.

1. We recognize the electoral victory of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] ticket headed by Guillermo Endara, the current president, because the Electoral Tribunal has recognized him in accordance with the vote tally sheets presented to this high electoral body.

2. We began our political activities in the nation convinced of the strengthening of our democracy. Endara's proclamation reinforces our representative democracy because the people's will expressed at the voting tables is being respected.

3. During our participation in the political process, we constantly insisted, and shall continue to insist, on dialogue and national reconciliation. This is the origin of our slogan related to dialogue and an easy transition. Because we expressed these measured and moderate concepts in times of conflict and uncertainty, we suffered misunderstanding, pressures, and hatred from several political sectors.

4. We believe in peace, national understanding, and political respect for and tolerance of all citizens and their ideas. For this reason, today we are calling on all fellow citizens so we can all struggle for the national reconstruction and reconciliation that is so necessary at this critical time in a peaceful, nonviolent framework. All Panamanians with a sense of goodwill will play a necessary and important role in this noble objective.

5. With grief and sadness, we denounce the violence and death that the Panamanian people have suffered recently. With faith, we are asking God Almighty to light the way for our people and their new government so this high social cost can yield fruits of peace and social and national harmony among all Panamanians without any distinction whatever. Thank you.

PRD President Duque Admits Endara's Triumph

PA2812183689 Panama City Radio Mia in Spanish 1735 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] We have just received a report saying Mr. Carlos Duque Jaen, former president, correction, president of the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], which ruled the country until recently, is trying to get in touch with Channel 4 for an interview over the telephone. Mr. Duque is telling Channel 4 and the Panamanian people that he admits or accepts the declaration of triumph of Mr. Guillermo Endara Galimany issued by the Electoral Tribunal of Panama [TEP].

Mr. Duque is also requesting that all PRD followers and the members of the Dignity Brigades lay down their weapons, because no one should be fighting at this time; this is the time for reconstruction and reconciliation among the Panamanians. Mr. Duque tells PRD members who ran for posts of legislator and councilman that

the party needs to hold a dialogue. Mr. Duque also tells them that the party should accept the TEP ruling because the party plans to attend to the claims filed by legally elected [PRD] legislators. Legislators who legally won in the elections should not worry because the party will request respect for the posts won by PRD candidates. This appeal by Mr. Carlos Alberto Duque Jaen—as president of the Christian Democratic Party [corrects himself] the PRD—will be aired during the evening newscast today.

We repeat, PRD President Mr. Carlos Alberto Duque Jaen has admitted that the TEP has acted according to the law and accepts the TEP ruling saying Mr. Guillermo Endara Galimany is the constitutional president of the Republic. Mr. Duque also tells his followers, or those who ran for the posts of legislator or councilman during the elections, that the party will make every possible effort to defend the posts legally won by them. Mr. Duque also tells them they should not worry because the party will defend the posts they won, since the elections were held in a correct and democratic manner.

This communique issued by Mr. Duque and the interview with him to be conducted by journalist Julio Miller this afternoon—as we have been told—or that might already have been held will be broadcast by Circuito RPC Channel 4; then you will hear the telephone interview.

Liberal Vanguard Supports New Government

PA2912000589 Panama City Radio Mia in Spanish 2202 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text of communique issued by the Liberal Vanguard of the Authentic Liberal Party in Panama City—date not given]

[Text] Liberal Vanguard, a political organization made up of youths who pledged many years ago to struggle for democracy in Panama, is extremely pleased with the installation of the new Government of National Reconciliation and Reconstruction led by Guillermo Endara Galimany, who was overwhelmingly elected president of the Republic on 7 May in elections where the Panamanians' civic and democratic spirit rose above the military dictatorship's claws.

The deplorable but accurate and timely U.S. Armed Forces' intervention, which resulted in the fall of the crafty and criminal Panamanian dictator, should serve as an example to the international community so respect for the peoples' self-determination outlined by many Latin American countries actually means respect for the people's will and the people's real sovereignty, rather than respect for and recognition of tyrannical governments like the one installed by General Noriega. He turned Panama into a state of terror, formed a drug mafia, and committed crimes with the silent complicity of friendly countries' governments.

The resulting wave of vandalism and pillaging unleashed by the Dignity Battalions as the last legacy of Noriega's regime of terror should lead us to reflect so Panama never again reaches such low levels, under circumstances where civic, ethical, and moral values were completely lost. Only the unity of all decent Panamanians, together with the efforts exerted by the Government of National Reconciliation and Reconstruction will allow us to bring Panama out of the rubble under which a man's madness had buried us.

The Liberal Vanguard issues an appeal for national unity, above all to those who still want to give their lives for a man who swore not to take a single step backward, yet gave everything away during the military invasion. They should put down their weapons and join the citizenry pledged to national reconstruction and reconciliation, thus avoiding further bloodshed. We are certain that the Panamanians will have no peace as long as Manuel Antonio Noriega remains on our national territory, because the vast majority of the citizenry hopes and pleads that he will be taken away for our security, and that he will be tried in U.S. courts for the crimes he committed against mankind—particularly against the long-suffering Panamanian people.

Authentic Liberal Party members have faith in the country's future and are sure that—without hate or vengeance, but with justice and guided by our leaders, the champions of liberty—we will attain the goals sought throughout many years of struggle and sacrifice: A decent Panama with justice, democracy, and liberty.

[Signed] Ezequiel Rodriguez Tercero, secretary general; Gabriel Gonzalez, public relations secretary

National Civic Crusade Issues Communique

PA2912031389 Panama City Radio Mia in Spanish 2030 GMT 28 Dec 89

[National Civic Crusade communique to the country issued in Panama City on 28 December]

[Text] In this first public communique in a free Panama, the National Civic Crusade, a multigroup movement that initiated and led the national struggle for justice, freedom, and democracy, beacuse of its moral and patriotic duty toward the Panamanians who gave their lives, were beaten, tortured, abused, jailed, and who suffered the bitter treatment of exile, wants to:

1. Reiterate its support for the constitutional government of the Republic of Panama, led by President Guillermo Endara Gallimany and Vice Presidents Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford Boyd, as it builds a free and democratic Panama.

2. Express that drug trafficker Manuel Antonio Noriega does not deserve political asylum because he is a common criminal whose crimes against the Panamanian people and humanity must be judged. Although as Panamanians we would have preferred to have him tried in

our fatherland, we must admit that the country is in no condition to confront the risks and costs that such a trial would entail, which leads us to believe that the only reasonable alternative is for him to be tried in U.S. courts, without affecting his being tried at a later date by the Panamanian people.

3. The new Public Forces must strictly adhere to the general outline of a state of law and act as a strictly professional body, not as a single unit but as a group of entities with separate functions. To this effect, we suggest, among other things:

a. That the current National Department of Investigation (DENI) be assigned to the Public Ministry.

b. The establishment of a penitentiary system independent of the Public Force and dependent on the Government and Justice Ministry.

c. The establishment of a department of public surveillance and land traffic.

d. The elimination of the military air, sea, and land apparatus of the former Panama Defense Forces [PDF] because it is unnecessary and very burdensome.

e. The admission that the inter-oceanic canal does not require military defense, that it cannot be defended militarily, and that it will only require a crew of guards, which currently exists on the Canal Commission's organizational chart. The Panamanian people must not repeat the mistake of reviving militarism. We only need and want a responsible, professional police service that will uphold its constitutional duty to safeguard the lives and well-being of citizens and that deserves the people's respect.

The National Civic Crusade, as the forerunner of the country's moral and civic movement, has a historic duty toward the construction of a new free and democratic fatherland. Therefore, it is essential that the National Civic Crusade express the need to end the hostilities, and that justice be done without revanchism. We have made a pledge to the country to remain alert to ensure the fulfillment of the ideals the Panamanian people have struggled for; in other words, the principles of justice, democracy, freedom, and honesty, which constitute the framework of the crusade's actions since its formation on 7 June 1987.

May God enlighten us as we travel this hard road.

Panama, 28 December 1989.

New Attorney General Appointed; Others Announced

PA2812151189 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1305 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] The government headed by Guillermo Endara Galimany has reported within the past few hours the appointments of several government officials. Some of them are: Jorge De la Guardia, new IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] director; Edgardo Lasso Valdez, director of the National Banking Association; Ruben Dario Carles, new comptroller; Rogelio Cruz, new attorney general; Eduardo Miro, director of the IDAAN [National Water and Sanitation Institute]; and Jorge Endara Paniza, director of the Social Security Fund. In addition, the names of three deputy ministers have been announced. They are: Miguel Batista Guerra, deputy presidency minister; Ramon Lima, deputy government and justice minister; and Jose Galan, deputy planning minister.

Diverse Sectors of Society Fear 'Witch Hunt'

PA2812205189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1830 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Report by Andreu Claret]

[Text] Panama City, 28 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Diverse Panamanian sectors connected with the former regime have voiced the fear that the many arrests made by the U.S. troops—approximately 5,000 up to now—could lead to an indiscriminate "witch hunt."

According to U.S. Southern Command official figures, up until the sixth day of the U.S. military presence in Panama, about 4,446 persons, including soldiers and civilians, had been arrested. Colonel Jerry Murguia, the U.S. Army spokesperson, acknowledged that "special camps" have been installed to lodge those who have been arrested, pending an investigation by the military and officials sent by Washington.

However, access to the "camps" is prohibited for the time being to the media, which cannot get close to Rodman Naval Base or the township of Cocoli near the canal banks, where it has been said most of the arrested persons are located.

Among the well-known persons arrested are Colonel Marcos Justines, former chief of the General Staff; Leonardo Kam, former foreign minister; other former ministers and high officials of the regime, and top leaders of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), the principal force of the former regime, connected for years on an observer status with the Socialist International.

All those arrested are being interrogated in connection with the possession of weapons and their relationship with Gen. Noriega, whose capture is sought by the United States, where he has been indicted on drug charges.

"The (U.S.) troops arrested me at 0600 this morning, together with all the other men of our street. They made me get on a vehicle with 42 other neighbors and took us to Albrook Air Base," a 37-year-old merchant, who is well off, said. He was released and asked that his name "please" not be released.

It was 22 December, 2 days after the U.S. invasion, when the troops began systematic "mop-up" operations in several areas as part of the so-called "Operation Just Cause."

The home of the arrested merchant had already been searched twice "without any weapons or anything having been found."

"The third time they took all the mature men to Albrook. From there they were taken to Balboa School, where they are being interrogated," he added.

The persistence of the fighting that day caused "panic" among civilian inmates who were taken to the school "in groups of 500," together with wounded officers and "Dignity Battalion" members who were arrested or had surrendered. "Several corpses and even a loose leg were removed from a nearby truck, while we spent almost 7 hours under the sun before being asked if we knew where Noriega (who had not yet taken refuge at the Nunciature) was, and if we knew about the existence of arms caches," the source added.

All the several thousand civilian detainees end up before a sergeant who takes their picture and places "a little piece of paper" on the chest of the photographed person with "his name and identification number."

This person and other persons who were arrested complained of "insults and verbal abuse" by the soldiers when they were arrested, but said they received "much better treatment" when they reached the centers and dealt with officers.

"I get the same food the soldiers get, water, even oxygen," noted a frail 45-years-old painter, who also declined to give his name. He was arrested at the Rio Hato Base, about 100 km from the capital, where he was painting murals for the Panama Defense Forces.

Most of the arrests came as a result of informants, prompted by attractive official offers of money if leads were provided on possible armed groups and arsenals.

The rise in informing seems to worry some Panamanian authorities, who have warned of the danger of "abuses." Olimpo Saenz, a deputy for the new regime, repeatedly warned over the radio those neighbors "who try to solve personal squabbles reporting alleged arms caches." Any report is immediately acted upon by U.S. troops, who raid homes if they are empty, as different ACAN-EFE reporters were able to see for themselves.

Asked about this situation, President Guillermo Endara's spokesman Anel Beliz noted that "many of these individuals are sought by U.S. military intelligence for reasons unknown to us."

A top U.S. Embassy official brought up the topic today, admitting that the arrests are based on different lists and, chiefly, based on the list of seven Panamanians indicted for drug trafficking by U.S. courts. As for the thousands of persons who are not suspected of drug crimes, he said that "they may be turned over to Panamanian justice for other crimes," which he did not specify.

Public Forces Start Patrolling Panama City

PA2912030089 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] The first contingents of the Panamanian police will go out tomorrow morning to patrol from the city's old quarters to Manuel Espinosa Batista and Federico Boyd Avenues. Major Fernando Quezada, head of the Panamanian Public Forces, had this to say.

[Begin recording] [Quezada] The Panamanian police and U.S. forces started joint patrol operations in Area A this afternoon. Area A starts at the city's old quarters and extends as far as the Federico Boyd and Manuel Espinosa Batista Avenues. Of course, the effect of this patrolling was not as some would have wanted it to be, because it is conducted in a very special way. The operation will be staggered. The police will patrol the entire city tomorrow. This patrolling is being conducted jointly with the U.S. military police. Policemen will walk and ride vehicles. In addition, the area's police substations will be occupied. The new police headquarters for Area A is the old National Department of Investigations [DENI] installations. DENI is now the Judicial Technical Police.

[Reporter] What will this patrolling be like and what kind of service will the new police render to the Panamanian community?

[Quezada] This is the same type of vigilance we conducted before. There will be an exception, however. Anyone possessing a firearm, either at home or elsewhere, shall be required to hand it over at the substations, where he will get a cash reward from the U.S. forces. This patrolling will also make it possible for people with firearms to head for the arms collection sites after they have tied a white handkerchief to the gun's barrel. The white handkerchief ensures their personal safety, because they will not be arrested or harassed in any way.

[Reporter] Will the traffic department offices offer the usual services to the public next week?

[Quezada] Yes. In addition, the traffic policemen will be on duty together with us. [end recording]

Paitilla Airport Closed for 'Security Reasons'

PA2912041089 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 0112 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] In a communique to the country, the Directorate of Civil Aeronautics reports that because of a lack of security for airplanes at the Marcos A. Gelarbert Airport in Paitilla, domestic flights from this airport have been suspended until further notice. When civil aeronautics is able to guarantee the safe operation of airplanes, the appropriate persons will be notified.

The communique is signed by engineer Jaime Fabrega, general director of civil aeronautics.

Official Reports Weapons Found Inside Hospital

PA2812160689 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1230 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] U.S. soldiers yesterday located weapons, grenades, and ammunition during a search operation at the Santo Tomas Hospital, according to the hospital's Deputy Director Rafael Perez Ferrari. He told the press that 50 U.S. soldiers searched the hospital room by room, and wing by wing, and found rifles, grenades, and ammunition in the physical therapy building. Perez Ferrari said that since the weapons were found in the hospital, an investigation would be conducted and those responsible will be found.

The Santo Tomas Hospital, the directors of which were changed following Manuel Antonio Noriega's ouster, is close to the U.S. Embassy in Panama City. The first day of the invasion, bullets were fired from the building, and those weapons and ammunition have been found, Ferrari said. The official said that 70 corpses were taken to this hospital, and 300 wounded persons have received medical attention there since 20 December when the U.S. intervention in Panama began. On 27 December, the U.S. forces command reported that over 500 Panamanians and 25 U.S. soldiers died in the fighting.

Radio Impacto Reports Weapons in Brothel

PA2812181189 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1640 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Manuel Antonio Noriega's international bank accounts were frozen. Right now, Manuel Antonio Noriega is entering the biggest economic ruin a man who once had so many millions ever faced. Manuel Antonio Noriega made his money from drug trafficking and a host of other criminal activities, including prostitution, because we understand he had ties to the prostitution business in Panama City. It is rumored that the Fenix Club belongs to Manuel Antonio Noriega. It is also reported that there are weapons belonging Noriega at the Fenix Club. Therefore, we ask the U.S. Southern Command to investigate this rumor. It is suspected that the Fenix Club, located in Rio Abajo, Panama City, may have weapons. The Fenix Club, a brothel that has been in operation for many years, was the site of many of Manuel Antonio Noriega's shameful actions.

It is also said that the Fenix Club owner, a man called Antonatos, loaned taxis to Manuel Antonio Noriega when Noriega was a poor officer so he could make a living. We want to say that U.S. troops now stationed in Panama City, protecting the rights of the Panamanian people, should investigate this club.

Editorial Calls for Patience, Moderation

PA2812150089 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 28 Dec 89 pp A1, A4

[Editorial: "National Reconciliation and Reconstruction," Part 2]

[Text] Yesterday we urged the Panamanians to unconditionally support the social programs that the new national government is slowly launching. We did so convinced that this is the only political attitude that would help Panama achieve its objectives, which range from total family reconciliation to the republic's reconstruction, as soon as possible. We reiterate that the country is experiencing the worst moments of its republican history. So far and for obvious reasons the new rulers have been unable to formally rebuild government institutions. State organizations have completely collapsed because of the recent developments. This situation obliges the new guides of the country's future to effect a new and unavoidable beginning.

The government and the Panamanian citizens must be very patient over the course of restoring normalcy and bringing about reconciliation and reconstruction. We must build a new nation, and in doing so we must act with moderation, tact, and above all, a lot of fairness. Each step must be accompanied by a large dose of prudence and reflection. Economic activity has unfortunately touched bottom and is virtually bankrupt. The ruinous state of its physical structure, deep wounds that have been inflicted, and the moral damage caused oblige the new rulers to carefully study any initiative or action that will be undertaken.

It is undeniable that the men who have been initially appointed to ministerial and other positions are very capable and experienced individuals in political, economic, and state management activities. This will supply the drive that the new government of the Republic needs to reach its goals. We need extraordinary efforts, refreshing initiatives, and unusual actions. The anarchy—common during situations such as the one we have unfortunately experienced—that has prevailed draws from rulers and citizens full identification with the vindictive actions that the situation warrants. However, the time has come to empty our past, plagued by resentment, sterile divisions, and political dabbling, into the trashcan of history.

Panamanians have paid dearly for our stubborness and imprudence. The time has come to rid ourselves of all vices. This is the moment to struggle together to achieve the announced national reconstruction and reconciliation. We recall that on many occasions we urged the Panamanians to reach an understanding and to reconcile. We did so when political passion was overflowing. We now reiterate our call to all Panamanians to reflect on what has transpired. We must support our new rulers without emotional and negative excesses. This will allow

us to build a great and progressive fatherland. Only in this way will we manage to fully enjoy a new dawn for all Panamanians.

Peruvian Ambassador Castro Resigns

PA2912020989 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Mario Castro, Peruvian ambassador to Panama, resigned today because of a disagreement with President Alan Garcia regarding the conflict in Panama.

Government Takes Over Noriega's Rio Sereno Farm

PA2912154489 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1931 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] San Jose, 28 Dec (DPA)—General Manuel Antonio Noriega's bunker in the "Rio Sereno" farm surrendered to the new government early this morning. The information was provided by neighbors of this farm located along the border with Costa Rica, which was Noriega's favorite place to spend weekends and host special celebrations.

"We noticed a lot of movement this morning, and later we saw that the new government forces had taken over the Rio Sereno farm," they said. "We have been nervous all these days because we feared fighting might break out, but luckily all was done peacefully," the neighbors added. Noriega purchased the farm 15 years ago when he was the commander of Chiriqui Province's central garrison.

More FDP Officers Surrender to U.S. Troops

PA2912041489 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2350 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] The U.S. Southern Command has reported that Colonel Rafael Cedeno, former chief of intelligence of the Noriega regime, has surrendered to U.S. troops. It was also learned that Lieutenant Colonel Arnulfo Castrejon and Lieutenant Colonel Chaplain Carlos Velarde have also been arrested. It was also announced that some of the restrictions on travel of U.S. soldiers and dependents to Panama have been lifted. Meanwhile, the U.S. Southern Command has reported that it has received information on isolated shooting incidents, but that the return of weapons by Panamanians who were armed by the Noriega regime continues normally.

San Miguelito Mayor Calls for Return to Work

PA2912130689 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] The new, provisional San Miguelito municipal authorities appointed by the Government of National Reconciliation and Reconstruction assumed their posts today.

Ruben Dario Campos, new San Miguelito provisional mayor, sent the following message to the San Miguelito municipal employees:

[Begin Campos recording] I would like to call all on the personnel of the San Miguelito mayorship to assume their posts.

The Panamanian deputy government and justice minister appointed me as provisional San Miguelito mayor. Today, we received the San Miguelito mayorship. Auditors of the mayorship and the Comptroller General Office are currently conducting an inventory of everything that is here in the mayorship.

We already met with the mayorship's administrative personnel. We want all those who did not come to work today to do so tomorrow. Probably, we will open to the public on Tuesday, 2 January. The Government of National Reconciliation and Reconstruction needs the hands of all San Miguelito municipal employees. Our goal is to work and to move the country forward. Thus, we hope to have the support of the media and all the San Miguelito mayorship personnel. We need everyone to come to work. This morning, almost 60 percent of San Miguelito municipal personnel were here. We hope that the rest of the personnel come to work between tomorrow and Tuesday, 2 January when we will open our offices to the public. [end recording]

Spadafora Group Reports on Border Situation

PA2912043689 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2325 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Report by Aurelio Nunez Concepcion]

[Text] Commander Junior Echevers of the Hugo Spadafora group has reported on the situation at the border with Costa Rica. The tax free purchase of staples has been limited from the Porton checkpoint for the border residents. This is the cause of considerable concern for the Costa Rican border businessmen. This is Commander Echevers.

[Begin recording] [Echevers] Everything is quiet and under control at the border. We have no major trouble here, only a minor nuisance related to tax- free purchases at the border. A solution is expected to be found today.

[Nunez] Commander, we have learned that you people visited Progreso already.

[Echevers] Yes. We carried out a mop-up operation at this place last night because we heard there were some people disturbing the population. I dispatched a group of my men to detain them, but they escaped.

[Nunez] What is the next step?

[Echevers] We have told them to surrender their arms because they would not profit from their activities. No more blood should be shed. We are not trying to persecute anyone. The idea is for the country to walk the path

of democracy and justice. These armed men have been told that no one will attack or detain them. As soon as they hand over their guns, they can continue to lead normal lives just like any other citizen. (?Someone) has been telling them they are going to be arrested. But this is not true. No one will be detained. Nevertheless, we will not permit human lives or property to be endangered or attacked.

[Nunez] Thank you very much for the information, Commander. We have another interview with a member of the same group. Your name?

[Castrellon] Jorge Ernesto Castrellon Vergara, former international combatant, better known as "25." My comrades and myself have been working with Commander Echevers to put an end to violence and other problems. We are accompanied by several men who are specialists in all types of operations. We and our commander work for a free homeland and democracy. We are not applying repression or harboring any hatred. We are greeting the Costa Rican people and my relatives living in Panama. Let them know that I am alive and that I expect them to come here. We expect the Panamanian people and the members of the Hugo Spadafora brigade in Panama to join us in this revolution to work for a free homeland and for all of the Latin American peoples.

Commentary Describes Noriega's Religious Practices

PA2812210989 Panama City Radio Mia in Spanish 1802 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] General Manuel Antonio Noriega's refuge at the Apostolic Nunciature closed a chapter in the paradoxical activities of the former strongman of Panama whose adaptable and ambivalent behavior characterized his military, political, and dictatorial tenure.

The man who boasted about his theosophical knowledge, declared himself to be a Buddhist on various occasions—especially when he dealt with the Japanese—on other occasions brought protestant preachers to speak to the troops, and yet on other occasions sorcerers such as Ivan Trilha and other less well known astrologers to carry out voodoo and witchcraft ceremonies.

He also hired an alleged bishop or patriarch of a false Orthodox church to praise his virtues and false nationalism. How many times did we see on television, which was controlled by the dictatorship, a so-called Reverend Ruiz, who called himself the watchtower of God and pastor of the Tabernacle of Faith and Glory in Juan Diaz neighborhood, insulting the Catholic Church and its hierarchy while trying to create collective hysteria among his followers by shouting: Help us, God!

This man, who is closely linked to Gen. Noriega, began his spectacular show on television by saying that he wears no cassock or crucifix and remains celibate, but is a missionary. However, he failed to say that he carries a revolver and is one of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega's hierophants.

Noriega did not allow an investigation into the death of Father Nicholas Van Kleef at the hands of one of his henchmen on 7 May. This man, who has been cornered by the persecution of a foreign army and overwhelmed by the burden of his crimes, abandoned his officers, paramilitary men, and other followers to—as in the Middle Ages—seek refuge at the church, which he had persecuted.

He did not seek asylum among his bosom friends, namely the Cubans and Nicaraguans, at the Hindustanis' temple, or the pagoda of the Buddhists, whose faith he claimed to profess. Instead, with his bundle of crimes, he ended up seeking refuge at the church he had abandoned, persecuted, and that he had drifted away from because of his criminal behavior.

Noriega, the witchcraft apprentice who had a room to practice Santeria, withcraft, and black magic in each of his luxurious residences, surrounded himself with necromancers with whom he practiced Afro-Cuban and Afro-Brazilian rites with a touch of idolatry, animism, Macumbe, and Candomble.

The syncretism that the dictator had created in his hot head allowed him to mix sacred church images with Haitian amulets, hallucinating herbs, and a few bazuco snorts to feel better. This was the man who ruled Panama.

However, the former strongman is about to face his judges; he is most probably calling for help from Confucious to Buddha, and from Yemaya to Mahoma and Chango.

Argentina

Chamber of Deputies Debate Declaration on Panama

PY2812141089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1306 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Dec (TELAM)—The Argentine Chamber of Deputies today "strongly repudiated" the U.S. military intervention in Panama by approving a declaration sponsored by the Justicialist Party (PJ) and the Radical Civic Union (UCR) blocs. The proposal met with strong opposition from the Democratic Centrist Union (UCeDe) deputies.

The declaration proposed by PJ Deputy Juan Pablo Cafiero calls for the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. troops that invaded Panama to oust General Manuel Noriega's government.

It also urges the United States to "strictly comply with the Torrijos-Carter treaties" on the future of the Panama Canal. The declaration rejects all types of dictatorial regimes, implicitly referring to Noriega.

This statement was included in the declaration at the suggestion of Federal Party Deputy Ruth Monjardin after obtaining the support of Jose Manzano, the speaker for the PJ bloc; Saturnino Arana (PJ), chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee; and UCR Deputy Dante Caputo.

The declaration also received the support of Intransigent Party Deputy Oscar Alende, Christian Democratic Party Deputy Hector Gatti, and Popular Democratic Party Deputy Alberto Aramouni. Deputy Luis Zamora of the Movement Toward Socialism rejected the declaration on the grounds that it was meaningless "to ask anything of a country that is killing Panamanians."

The UCeDe opposed the declaration, and bloc speaker Federico Clerici was mocked by PJ and UCR deputies when he read an alternate declaration prepared by UCeDe Deputy Adelina Dalessio de Viola, which urged the governments of both the United States and Panama to "stop using violence."

UCeDe Deputy Francisco Duranona y Vedia criticized the declaration by stating that it implied support for General Noriega's regime. Deputy Federico Zamora, also from the UCeDe, lamented that "there are so many forgetful people here. A lot is being said about what happened in Panama, but nothing is being said about Romania."

Former Foreign Minister and UCR Deputy Dante Caputo supported the declaration and said that "to accept the U.S. invasion would be tantamount to admitting that the end justifies the means," adding that such ideas must be rejected—even though Panama may have had an "illegal, dictatorial and corrupt" government.

Toward the end of the debate, PJ bloc speaker Jose Manzano said that "by criticizing this savagery, we seek to help relations between the United States and Latin America [le hacemos un favor a la relacion de los estados unidos con america latina]. He added that the United States has different standards for the desire for freedom of tall blond East Germans and of short dark Panamanians."

Government Distributing Food to Prevent Looting

PY2912130489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0840 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 29 Dec (EFE)—Argentine Government spokesmen have reported that the government has begun to distribute food in the poor neighborhoods of Buenos Aires and in the capitals of Santa Fe, Formosa, Chaco, and Jujuy Provinces to prevent looting.

According to the sources, the National Department for Social Emergencies (DINES) was yesterday put in charge of distributing food through the interior ministries of each of these provinces to prevent the looting of supermarkets, as happened this past May. [passage omitted]

Although no official statistics have been reported, the Argentine Federation of Retail Merchants yesterday released the results of a survey conducted between 1 and 27 December. According to this survey, food prices increased 210 percent during this period.

After the exchange shops closed today, the U.S. dollar was being bought and sold for approximately 1,950 australes, which represents an annual increase of 11,778.28 percent. This figure was determined according to private calculations based on the exchange rate on 2 January 1989, when the dollar was worth 15.15 australes.

Government To Announce New Economic Measures

PY2912020089 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0030 GMT 29 Dec 89

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Dec (DYN)— Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez tonight announced that the government will adopt new economic measures to consolidate the current economic program. He said the measures will be studied over the weekend and probably announced to the country in the first hours of the New Year.

Gonzalez explained that the implementation of these new measures "absolutely" does not mean that the government will modify its decision to stay out of the various markets, which will continue to function freely, without any official control.

Gonzalez declined to detail the measures to be studied this weekend. "It would not be responsible to comment on the measures, because they still have to be coordinated with political [word indistinct]."

The minister insisted that the measures "are aimed at intensifying the market policy that has [passage indistinct] that the government will immediately organize government-labor-management meetings in the private sector, and added that the Cabinet has already approved a decree to that effect.

Gonzalez said that the meetings "will be entirely free," and that the state "will not interfere at all."

He said he does not believe that any minister will resign, except for Labor Under Secretary Roberto Digon, whose resignation has already been tendered and accepted.

All national ministers; secretaries of the presidential area and of other ministries; Senate Chairman Eduardo Menem; Deputies Chairman Alberto Pierri; and Jose Luis Manzano, head of the ruling party bloc in the Chamber of Deputies took part in the meeting [not further identified].

Menem Confirms New Measures

PY2912021489 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1530 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Dec (DYN)—President Carlos Menem today confirmed the economic policies and measures adopted by the government despite the constant increase in the dollar rate and the unprecedented increase in interest rates, which yesterday reached 9 percent a day. Menem said that the government "will not continue to gamble," meaning that the state will not interfere in the financial market.

Menem made these comments at the end of a promotion ceremony for Coast Guard officers, held at the Coast Guard Building in Buenos Aires.

On the occasion, Menem urged the journalists to "help the people remain calm," because "the interests of the Argentine Republic are at stake."

He said that the economic situation "will become stable." He pointed out that when he took power, he announced that he would need at least 2 years to normalize the country's chaotic situation.

Menem used the new slogan "Argentina, now or never," to show that "soon" the crisis will be overcome. Confirming the economic policies that have been adopted, he said "we will not go back on any decision."

Asked about the labor unions' call for the beginning of the government-labor-management talks, Menem said "Everything is ready to start next month." He added that the salaries of the public employees will be "readjusted" in accordance with the cost of living.

Regarding the comments by several deputies of the Justicialist Party, who yesterday proposed that Jose Luis Manzano be replaced as head of the deputies bloc by Jose Manuel de la Sota, Menem declined to give his opinion on the matter and urged all "to put an end to these internal fights."

"Now, that we all need to be calm, I would like to see these internal fights postponed until we start to progress and experience better times," he said.

Reviewing the year that is about to end, Menem said that from the political point of view the balance was "positive" because "democracy and freedom have been strengthened."

He admitted, however, that "things have not gone well in the economic field." Confidently he added: "The situation will become stable next year."

Asked about the social unrest of the last few days, Menem exhorted the journalists to "help the people remain calm and peaceful." Commenting on the serious incidents in Romania, he said they are the result of "ideologies that imprison ideas."

"You can see," he said, "how, at last, the ideas explode and win, as has happened in Romania and in many other parts of the world" without incidents. [as published]

He urged the people "not to join the nonsensical interest rate and dollar rate race." He asserted that in Argentina, "all steps to overcome these difficulties have been adopted."

"The virtues of a people are tested in the biggest storms," Menem said almost at the end of the interview, when he became upset at the questions about the second stage of the pardon law, in which the former presidents and Montonero leader Mario Firmenich will be freed.

"This topic has not been taken into consideration yet," he said. He added that the military's concern about the issue is "logical."

President Menem left the Coast Guard Building driving his own car. He drove a few meters along Madero Avenue, in the direction of Casa Rosada, and got caught in a traffic jam.

In a few seconds, the car being driven by the president was surrounded by Federal Police agents, who fruitlessly tried to make the traffic move more quickly.

Spanish Daily Interviews President Menem

PM2812130089 Madrid YA in Spanish 18 Dec 89 p 12

[Interview with President Carlos Menem by Raimundo Diaz-Alejo in Buenos Aires; date not given]

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires—[passage omitted]

[Diaz-Alejo] Mr President, what have you done so far for the sake of national and international coordination?

[Menem] I believe we have done a great deal: We have greatly reduced hyperinflation, which previously ran at 200 percent a month, and have achieved social peace at home. However, much remains to be done; we must all work for a productive and wealthy Argentina that has turned its back forever on the wicked Argentina of

speculation and political immaturity of the past. With workers and businessmen, we are building a country where wealth is distributed according to social justice. There are some things that we have not yet fully achieved: Although we have increased wages fourfold, there is a serious lag in this regard. Nevertheless we are on the right road, the correct path.

As for the international scene, we want to, and will, honor our commitments to our creditors. Therefore, by means of hard work and an economy centered on production, the creditor banks will gain confidence in the country and there will be investments of capital.

[Diaz-Alejo] Do you consider a conference of Latin American nations possible and desirable? How could you contribute to it?

[Menem] The continent is espousing democracy, perhaps as never before in its troubled history. This institutional continuity is the essential prior step before we Latin American governments can sit down and talk about our potentials and limitations and draw up a joint policy of economic and cultural exchange that will enrich us and enable us to go out into the world and compete on an equal footing. We Latin Americans have been the victims of rigid policies that kept our borders closed for many years, as though the fraternal countries were areas divorced from the common interest. I do not know what form this Latin American common market should take. The important thing will be to agree on how we can help one another and offer the world the best of each of our nations.

Personally, I have already spoken with Latin American leaders, and we agreed on the need to elevate the Bolivian dream of the "greater homeland."

[Diaz-Alejo] Do you believe that peace is possible in South America, in view of the situation in Peru, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Honduras?

[Menem] More than ever, South America needs solid and lasting peace that will end the bloodshed and violence caused by "visionaries" and drug dealers. I believe that the framework of democratic stability is a curb on the violence that still shakes our fraternal nations. I have offered my services as a mediator in certain conflicts, and I resolutely believe that when we espouse continental integration we will eliminate violence and the economic pretexts for it.

[Diaz-Alejo] What do you think of the criticisms of the privatization of national enterprises and the demands of the Plaza de Mayo mothers?

[Menem] In certain cases, as with the privatization of television channels, I can only smile. There was some kind of scandal over this when we decided not to close them down and to keep them working until privatization took place. Now bidding forms are being offered, and those demanding a postponement are the same people who criticized me. The privatizations of state enterprises are not an evil measure decided on to harm anyone—especially not the workers. They are basically an attempt to improve efficiency.

As for the demands of the Plaza de Mayo mothers, I have always expressed my respect for them. I believe that nobody can deny that their grief is justified. They represent the result of Argentina's period of greatest gloom and uncertainty. But I also believe that we must not cling to the events of the past. We must now direct all our energies to the future. The wheel of history does not stop, and we could be crushed by it if we stand still, looking backward.

[Diaz-Alejo] Do you believe that some day Latin Americans on both sides of the Atlantic [as published] will have a single nationality?

[Menem] As I said earlier, Latin America must integrate its nations because we have many things in common. We must break down these rigid borders that separate us and, without losing our identities, work to turn our countries into a great nation with complementary regional economies. Perhaps it will not be long before we are united by a shared blueprint and future. Then we will have achieved the great Latin American nation.

Bolivia

Government Communique on Panama Released

PY2912023689 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] The Bolivian Government requests that the U.S. military intervention in Panama cease and suggests the need for a consultation with the Panamanian people to choose their own destiny.

The position of the government of President Jaime Paz was disclosed this afternoon by Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde.

The foreign minister read a 3-minute communique, stating that the government of national unity, without detriment to its willingness to act [words indistinct], considers that after the dramatic and regrettable confrontations in Panama have ended, the time has come for the Panamanian people to recover the full exercise of their sovereignty and be consulted about their own national destiny.

The Bolivian Government points out that it is indispensable to guarantee the elections so that the Panamanian people's will is expressed under the most favorable circumstances.

[Begin Iturralde recording] The Bolivian Government considers that [words indistinct] once the Panamanian National Defense Forces have recovered their (?operational capability), it is their duty, in exercising their specific functions, to guarantee the public order and security of their country.

For this purpose, the inter-American system must be prepared to offer its cooperation if it is needed and requested.

B. [as heard] In this regard, it is appropriate for the intervention of the U.S. troops to end.

C. A consultation must be organized and presided over by a national commission or another suitable mechanism that will have the civic and moral authority and a degree of (?civilian respectability) to guarantee lawfulness, representativity, and impartiality and that will be best suited to the current circumstances (?of the Panamanian people). [end recording]

Foreign Minister Iturralde said that the Bolivian Government reiterates the need for all the parties to fully respect the rights, duties, and obligations arising from the institution of political asylum, which is among the best traditions of this hemisphere.

After reading the communique, the foreign minister refused to answer questions from the press about the Panamanian conflict.

Brazil

Foreign Minister Says Panama Relations 'Normal'

PY2812015589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Brasilia, 27 Dec (EFE)—It was reported here today that Brazil does not have to recognize the new Panamanian officials because its relations are with states, not with governments. Brazil therefore does not have to go through that procedure.

Therefore, the Brazilian foreign minister [Roberto de Abreu Sodre] told EFE, relations between Brazil and Panama are normal.

Government 'Automatically' Recognizes Romania

PY2812021189 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0141 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Brasilia, 27 Dec (EFE)—It was reported here today that Brazil has automatically recognized the new Romanian Government, headed by Ion Iliescu, without making any official declaration.

The Foreign Ministry told EFE that Brazil maintains relations with states, not governments, and that therefore there is no need for a formal recognition.

The Foreign Ministry Press Office also reported that its mission in Bucharest has been reinforced with a first secretary.

President-Elect's Financial Measures Announced

PY2812113889 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Report by Mairlucci Vilela from Brasilia]

[Text] The advisers of President-elect Fernando Collor de Mello met this afternoon to define the structure of the next government. Only 12 of the current 24 ministries will continue; 9 civilian and 3 military. The following ministries will continue under the new administration: They are the Navy, Air Force, Army, Justice, Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, Education, Health, and the Foreign Ministry. The new administration will create the Social Action Ministry, the Economy Ministry, and the Infrastructure Ministry. The Labor and Welfare Ministries will merge.

The advisers also decided who will coordinate the working groups of the Collor de Mello transition team. Ambassador Marcos Coimbra will coordinate the groups that will deal with the Foreign Ministry, the Army Ministry, the Air Force Ministry, and the Navy Ministry, and Economist Zeila Cardoso will coordinate the other ministries.

During Collor's administration, the president of the Republic will centralize all economic decisions. Collor de Mello's Press Adviser Claudio Humberto today said there is no need for so much speculation as to who will be the next finance minister. According to Humberto, during Collor's period in office, the finance minister will only assist the president, who will centralize all economic decisions. Different from all previous administrations, including the current one, the finance minister will not have so much authority.

[Begin Humberto recording] During Collor's administration, the president will act as the finance minister. The president will not give up his position as a ruler and the minister will assist the president in the implementation of the economic policies. Therefore, the financial market has no reason to be unstable. The economic policy will not be determined by the minister, but by the president. [end recording]

Regarding press rumors which state that the president-elect will not hand over power to Vice President Itamar Franco whenever he travels, Claudio Humberto said that these rumors are false and that he has already sent a letter to O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, which published the news, asking it to publish a retraction.

December Inflation Rate Totals 53.6 Percent

PY2912121789 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Excerpt] The December inflation rate totaled 53.55 percent for an accumulated inflation rate of 1,764.86 percent. [passage omitted]

Unemployment Over Past 12 Months

O desemprego nos últimos 12 meses
A taxa de desemprego aberto em setembro (3,22%) repetiu a do mês anterior e corresponde a 554 mil pessoas desocupadas no período. O menor índice de desemprego foi registrado em Porto Alegre: 2,07%.
5
4
3
2
1
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(1)
(2) FONTE: IBGE

The rate of open unemployment in September (3.22 percent) was unchanged from the month before, with 554,000 persons being unemployed during the period. The lowest unemployment level was recorded in Porto Alegre (2.07 percent).

Key:
1. Months from October 1988 ("out/88") through September 1989 ("set").
2. Source: IBGE.

* Informal Economy Impact on Unemployment Seen

90ET0053B Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 7 Nov 89 p 19

[Text] The average rate of unemployment in September 1989 (3.22 percent) was the same as in August and was Brazil's lowest for any month of September during the 1980's. That rate is comparable only to the rate for September 1986, when the gross domestic product (GDP) had a record growth rate of 8 percent—that was the era of the Cruzado Plan.

According to experts at the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), who are responsible for the Monthly Employment Survey (PME), the increase in the employment rate is being "pulled along" by the informal labor market. Although not measured, the informal economy is included in the survey.

The 1989 levels were also the lowest of the 1980's as far as the period from May through September is concerned. The unemployment rate in September 1989 was down 15 percent in comparison with September 1988 (3.84 percent), meaning that 95,000 fewer people were unemployed. The PME is conducted in the metropolitan areas of Recife, Salvador, Belo Horizonte, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, and Porto Alegre and covers 36,000 households. The IBGE determines who is working for remuneration in cash or in other, nonmonetary forms of compensation and who is engaged in an economic activity for at least 15 hours per week, although without remuneration, in cooperatives or religious institutions or as apprentices or trainees.

The IBGE found that there were about 554,000 unemployed in the six metropolitan areas surveyed. The sharpest drop in the IBGE's latest monthly average unemployment rate is credited to the processing industry, where unemployment fell from 4.63 percent in September 1988 to 3.77 percent last September. The rate of activity, which refers to persons 15 years of age or older making up the country's economically active population, experienced a slight drop from 62.51 percent in September 1988 to 61.7 percent in September 1989. Of the 40.27 million persons surveyed, 16.6 million are employed. Of those, 58.5 percent are working with a signed work card, 18.68 percent are working without a signed work card, 17.67 percent are self-employed, and 4.26 percent are employers, although their firms are not legally registered.

Rise in Workers' Average Real Income (Percent)

Category	Aug 88	Jul 89	Aug 89
Employed persons	2.88	13.17	17.28
With work card	2.32	3.86	8.11
Without work card	zero	13.81	14.36
Self-employed	2.40	28.14	31.74
Employers	2.36	28.43	37.45

Source: IBGE

The estimated real income of employed persons was up 14 percent in August compared to the same month the year before. Employees with a work card received an increase of 6 percent, compared to 14 percent for those without a work card.

The IBGE also points out in its latest PME that the average real income of employees with a signed work card rose by 8.11 percent, well below the real increases in earnings amounting to 14.36 percent for those without a signed work card, 31.74 percent for the self-employed, and 37.45 percent for those who are employers. The unemployment rate in Rio de Janeiro is continuing to decline: It was 2.59 percent in September 1989, compared to 2.75 percent last August. Compared to the rate reported in September 1988 (3.15 percent), Rio de Janeiro's unemployment rate showed a drop of 18 percent in September 1989. But the lowest unemployment rate in September 1989 was recorded in Porto Alegre at 2.07 percent. In Sao Paulo, the rate was up slightly from 3.24 percent last August to 3.3 percent in September. But that was still below the unemployment rate of 4.1 percent in September 1988.

Chile

Military Regime Delays Armed Forces' Charter

PY2812145889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0122 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 26 Dec (EFE)—The Chilean military regime today postponed the approval of the Armed Forces charter following remarks and criticisms made about the project by a representative of President-elect Patricio Aylwin and member of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC).

Admiral Jose Toribio Merino, the Navy commander in chief and Government Junta chairman, has said that there are disagreements within the Government Junta over this new law.

PDC economist Edgardo Boeninger today delivered to General Jorge Ballerino, the minister secretary general of government, a document containing the remarks and the criticisms of the Chilean opposition to the government project concerning the Armed Forces charter.

The main point of the document objects to the duties and prerogatives of the joint commanders in chief of the Army, Navy and Air Force which, according to the current project, will be absolutely independent from the upcoming administration in several areas.

The military regime accepted these remarks after the meeting between President-elect Patricio Aylwin and President Pinochet on Thursday 21 December.

The four members of the Government Junta have agreed to postpone the discussion and approval of this project until they learn in detail the proposal submitted by the opposition, which won the 14 December elections when Aylwin obtained 55.2 percent of the votes.

Merino told the local press that "there are some disagreements" among the Government Junta members over this project.

Concerning the opposition's proposal, Merino said that "it is very important to know what they think, what they believe, what they think that [words indistinct] most things apparently are not so serious are they believed."

On 15 December, Aylwin asked the military regime to stop legislating on significant matters "without previously consulting with the opposition, following the will expressed by the people in the recent elections."

'Secret' Draft Law Favoring Pinochet Submitted

PY2812213689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1715 27 Dec 89

[Text] Santiago, 27 Dec (EFE)—An opposition newspaper reported today that General Augusto Pinochet had submitted for the approval of the military junta a draft law that allows him to administer, with total autonomy, all the assets of the War Under Secretariat, which is subordinate to the Chilean Defense Ministry and the Army.

The morning newspaper LA EPOCA, linked to the Chilean Christian Democratic Party [PDC], published the contents of the plan and said that the document carries the seal "not for publication" ["sin difusion"]. The newspaper claims that label indicates that the document is the regime's ultimate and decisive secret law.

LA EPOCA states that this draft law would entrust all the assets of those institutions to Pinochet, "regardless of their origin and form of acquisition." This seems to be an attempt to legitimatize the control over assets expropriated or seized by the Army after the military coup of 11 Sepember 1973.

PDC Leader Ramon Briones stated today that this secret law shows that Pinochet wants to have significant and unjustified power, parallel to that of the freely elected president of the Republic.

Briones added that the bill establishes that the assets referred to in that bill must be excluded from the rules that are imposed on all other state assets.

He added that the bill also establishes that the functions of the Army officer in charge of administering those assets will not be subject to the general or special limitations included in the current law.

So far the military regime has not made any comments on this report.

PCCh Criticizes Designation of Senators

PY2912011489 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] The Chilean Communist Party [PCCh] has stated that the designation of senators by President Augusto Pinochet, the National Security Council, and the Supreme Court is totally illegitimate and is another aberration of the Constitution that was imposed in 1980.

This statement was made during a press conference by PCCh spokespersons Jose Sanfuentes, Mireya Baltra, and Fanny Pollarolo. In this regard, Sanfuentes said:

[Begin Sanfuentes recording] The senatorial designations are totally illegitimate. Consequently, the legislative actions performed by these false senators may not be considered valid. If they have a shred of honor, they will resign. It has been claimed that these designations are legitimate on the grounds that they are established by the Constitution. However, this situation confirms that the Constitution is essentially antidemocratic.

The nine designated senators have faithfully cooperated, in their own areas, with the Pinochet government. Some of those designations—like that of former Pinochet Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez, of sad memory, and of Mrs Feliu, a lawyer of the Dignidad settlement—amount to a true provocation of the civilized conscience of Chileans. [end recording]

Sanfuentes added that the 9 designated senators, plus the 16 who were elected by the right-wing parties under the current electoral law, will give the right wing control over the Senate and, consequently, over Congress. This situation would not have happened with a democratic electoral law.

[Begin Sanfuentes recording] It has been rightly said that all these schemes for continuing the present regime could be defeated by the democratic sectors if they were united, because unity was and is the source of power of the current opposition and of the future government. However, today we should lament the loss of control over Congress. This was caused by the mistaken exclusionary attitudes that prevented the presentation of a single opposition ticket for Congress. [end recording]

The PCCh announced that it will call upon the people to mobilize to avoid what they called a mockery of the democratic spirit of Chileans by the right wing and by the dictatorship.

Junta Member Sinclair Resigns To Become Senator

PY2912014489 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Report by Graciela Contreras from La Moneda Palace]

[Excerpt] Cristian Labbe, the minister secretary general of government, has confirmed a few minutes ago the resignation of Lieutenant General Santiago Sinclair, as required by law, so that he can be appointed senator.

[Begin Labbe recording, in progress] ...public posts, Lt Gen Santiago Sinclair this afternoon personally tendered to the president of the Republic his resignation from the Army and, consequently, his resignation from the post of representative of the Army commander in chief in the honorable government junta.

Gen Sinclair will be replaced in his post as representative of the Army commander in chief in the honorable government junta by the deputy commander in chief of the Army, Lieutenant General Jorge Lucar.

Technical issues regarding the change of the representative of the Army commander in chief in the government junta will be discussed in the regular legislative session on Tuesday, 2 January 1990. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Mormon Church Attacked; No Injuries, Damage

PY2912123189 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] The Mormon Church at 1141 Espectadores Street in the Frei neighborhood was attacked last night by unidentified people who hurled flaming gasoline-soaked rags at the building. No major damage was reported.

Bomb Explodes at Chilean-U.S. Cultural Institute

PY2912131389 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] A bomb exploded in the bathroom of the Chilean-U.S. Cultural Institute at 1467 Moneda Street while 360 students were in the building. The police have said that the bomb contained 1 kg of explosives made up of ammonium gelignite and ANFO [ammonium nitrate-fuel oil]. The bomb was set off by a fuse system.

The bomb caused serious damage to the 5th-floor mens room. The police reported that the explosion caused a panic but no casualties.

International Reserves, Trade Surplus Reported

PY2812000489 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Summary] The international reserves at the Central Bank of Chile totaled a little more than $2,881,000,000 in November 1989. The cumulative trade surplus for January-October 1989 totaled $1,423,000,000.

Socialist Party Secretary General Moraga Resigns

PY2812005789 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Juan Carlos Moraga, secretary general of the Chilean Socialist Party [PSCh], has resigned his post. Moraga, who led the PSCh campaign in support of presidential candidate Francisco Javier Errazuriz, formalized his resignation as PSCh leader and militant by sending a note to Electoral Service Director Juan Ignacio Garcia. The note was presented and formalized by Moraga himself at the Electoral Service office a few hours ago.

Colombia

U.S. Reportedly Planning To Form Blockade

PY2812101089 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] [Words indistinct] of Panama, when a large number of U.S. ships, planes and troops are close to Colombian borders. This plan involves placing a U.S. carrier in international waters off the coast of Colombia to stop drug shipments from Colombia to the United States.

When this plan was first reported on 23 November, neither of the two governments made any official statements. The rumor is now back, 1 week after the invasion of Panama, because of the large number of U.S. troops that are stationed close to the Colombian border.

Today's report indicates that the plan has the support of President Barco's administration. Some suspicious people believe that it is no coincidence that just 1 week after the plan became first known, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Bernard Aronson paid a quick and almost secret visit to Bogota. His talks dealt exclusively with drug trafficking. On the next day a delegation of U.S. congressmen also visited Bogota to discuss the same subject with the Colombian Government. No official information about a joint U.S.-Colombian plan against drug trafficking was released after the two meetings.

According to an unidentified Pentagon source, the blockade would not effect legal Colombian exports to the United States. It is believed to be a large operation, we want to make sure that no drug trafficker will be able to leave Colombia by either sea or air, the source said.

Just as it did 1 month ago, the Colombian Government has kept silent. Certain officials, like the director of Civilian Aviation and an adviser to the justice minister, have indicated that they knew nothing whatsoever about the alleged blockade. The U.S. Government has not commented either.

Eight Cousins of Ochoa Drug Family Detained

PY2812202089 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Eight cousins of the so-called Ochoa clan were arrested yesterday by the Elite Police Force. The eight were vacationing on a farm in La Dorada. None of them have police records.

The eight members of the Ochoa family were arrested by the Elite Police Force, together with an employee of the farm [name indistinct], owned by presumed drug trafficker (Guillermo Grondono).

Cousins Jorge Luis, Juan David, and Fabio Ochoa Vazquez were resting on the farm, together with their children and wives. None of them are facing pending trials in Colombia. The authorities are waiting, however, for a report from the U.S. narcotics agency to see whether some drug trafficking charges have been brought against them in that country.

Police Thwart Terrorist Attack in Bucaramanga

PY2712200889 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] The Santander police today thwarted a terrorist plan that was to be carried out by the Army of National Liberation [ELN] in Bucaramanga. The police found a car bomb made up of 50 kg of dynamite. The police operation, which took place early this morning in a downtown area in this city, also enabled the police to detain eight people and to seize weapons, ammunition, and vehicles.

This is the second blow that the police have delivered to the ELN in less than a month. The eight detainees, four sisters and four men, were identified as follows: Erica Almeida Ramirez, Jomara Almeida Ramirez, Magui Almeida Ramirez, Ematulia Almeida Ramirez, Carlos Felix Mendez, Saul Saavedra Ramirez, Hernando Rondon Perez, and Hernando Rondon Gimenez, the last two of whom are father and son.

The police also seized 50 kg of dynamite, three vehicles, Army and police uniforms, weapons, and a large amount of ammunition. According to the Santander police chief, Colonel Jorge Ernesto Ferraro Echeverry, the terrorists had planned to carry out dynamite attacks in several areas of the city.

The detainees and the vehicles were located by the intelligence service in two houses in downtown Bucaramanga. One of these houses is located next to the new political headquarters of the M-19.

This new blow is part of the Star Plan [Plan Estrella] that the Santander police are carrying out in December.

UP President Montana Interviewed

PA2712155989 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Interview with Colombian Patriotic Union, UP, President Diego Montana by an unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Good morning Patriotic Union [UP] President Diego Montana.

[Montana] Good morning, how are you?

[Reporter] Mr Montana, is there a conflict between the Communist Party of Colombia [PCC] and the UP?

[Montana] No, there is no conflict between the UP and the PCC. The UP is a pluralist group and various political currents coexist inside our movement. The UP uses open debates as a method of solving disagreements among its members.

The PCC, however, is experiencing a disagreement, which I consider very beneficial for the communists, for the leftist groups, and the country in general. That disagreement seeks ways to adapt the party's organization and work out methods using the new ways to solve problems in the socialist world.

Debates have been conducted in the form of seminars organized by the PCC leaders themselves. This shows that the party is determined to seek a new atmosphere for the discussions. I am aware of a few, but very important arguments. For example, economist Silva Celli strongly criticizes the economic policy of the Soviet Union and of the socialist countries in general.

In addition, Professor Nicolas Buenaventura, director of the Social Research Study Center, CEIS, has an argument which even proposes dissolving the PCC as an organization, alleging that the base of its support as a movement has disappeared.

Another very interesting argument is that of Alvaro Delgado, a prominent PCC leader, who proposes the falseness of some doctrinaire postulates, on which the struggle of the communist parties of the world had been based up until now.

I believe those debates are very important for the country. The PCC has many intelligent people and people whom we appreciate very much including its Secretary General Gilberto Vieira, who is an open-minded person. I believe those discussions are very suitable for the PCC and for the country.

There is no disagreement between the UP and the PCC, because we do not need that kind of discussion. The UP is a pluralist movement, a convergence.

[Reporter] Mr Montana, the problem, however, seems to lie in the fact that generally speaking, the UP considers that Colombia's problems require a political solution while some PCC members seem to believe that the solution to Colombia's problems continues to be a military solution.

[Montana] It is clear that this is based on the fact that a military solution will not bring about the social change the country requires. The UP believes that change will be made through a political solution. PCC Secretary General Gilberto Vieira also shares that thesis. There are eight PCC members who do not share that thesis. Obviously, there are many communists inside the UP, including our presidential hopeful Bernardo Jaramillo. They have their discussions inside the party. And in our opinion, those discussions are positive.

What the newspaper EL TIEMPO said is not correct. There is no change regarding Bernardo Jaramillo's candidacy. The second UP Congress agreed on a democratic government platform and elected Jaramillo as the presidential candidate. [passage indistinct]

Jaramillo will be presented as a single presidential candidate in the convergence congress that will meet early next year. However, if he is not accepted as the single candidate, and if the name of another presidential candidate is brought up—a person who can coalesce both the leftist and democratic forces and sectors, as well as the Conservative and Liberal parties—then this other person will be the candidate.

[Reporter] Dr Montana, everything indicates that because the UP—and specifically candidate Jaramillo—opposes armed struggle, several serious incidents have occurred, such as Guillermo Mangueras, executive secretary of your movement, being reported missing.

[Montana] I do not believe this version. There is no relationship between the UP and [words indistinct], although the UP emerged as the result of the peace efforts and a pact between Belisario Betancur's government and the rebel movement.

A month ago, Guillermo Banguero, our executive secretary, asked us for leave to get away from the city for a time. Since he requested leave for personal reasons, we did not ask him where was he heading or what was he going to do.

Yesterday, the PCC leaders said that Banguero had met with the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] secretary. The UP deeply respects the comrades that gave up the armed struggle and joined the peaceful struggle through our group.

Thus, the UP will consider any personal effort by Comrade Guillermo Banguero to try to find new alternatives for a dialogue and peace as positive efforts.

[Reporter] Mr Montana Cuellar, the partner with whom Mr Banguero lives here in Bogota said that she received

a phone call, was forced to leave the apartment, and was told that Banguero is being held by FARC.

[Montana] I am not sure whether she made that statement. That is what EL TIEMPO said in its report. Yesterday, PCC leader Manuel Zepeda publicly said that Banguero would return within the next few days and that he would bring a message of peace. Thus, I believe that if that happens, the EL TIEMPO report will be completely rectified.

[Reporter] Mr Montana, have you made any attempts to try to find out through the famous red telephone at the Colombian presidential palace whether it is true that Mr Banguero is meeting with the FARC?

[Montana] Apparently, Mr (Fardon) said that he was never informed of Banguero's visit there. Everytime someone travels to meet with the FARC, the visit is released to the public right away. Information concerning my meeting with the FARC, for example, was released to the public. We asked permission of the government and the Armed Forces to meet with FARC leaders. That was public. Every time we send somebody to meet with FARC leaders, we do it publicly and we give our envoy a specific mission.

In this case, I do not think there was any previous contact with the FARC, because Banguero was not sent on any special mission. He probably went there on a personal mission. I believe we must wait a few days. He will probably return soon.

[Reporter] Mr Montana Cuellar, thank you very much for your statements.

Ecuador

Ambassador to Panama Recalled for Consultations

PA2812032689 Paris AFP in Spanish 0132 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Quito, 27 Dec (AFP)—Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez reported today that Ecuador has recalled its ambassador in Panama to to report on the situation there. He recalled that Panamanians "had been warned of the possibility of a U.S. invasion."

The efforts made by Ecuador were precisely to "avoid what has occurred," said Cordovez, who chaired the OAS reconciliation mission to Panama.

"I warned them that the (U.S.) invasion was a possibility and, unfortunately, despite the fact that they agreed—with great difficulty—to sit at a negotiating table to find a Panamanian solution, they did not reach an agreement," added the Ecuadoran diplomat.

However, he said that the U.S. invasion was "a step backward" in the relations between the United States and Latin America, when it was hoped that these relations would improve.

When asked whether the Ecuadoran Government will recognize Guillermo Endara's regime, Cordovez replied that he has not received a notification of the formation of any government and that when this occurs, "we will evaluate the situation."

Paraguay

PRLA Releases Communique on Invasion of Panama

PY2712160089 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 27 Dec 89 p 10

[Text] A document issued by the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA] states: "The invasion of Panamanian territory by U.S. troops is an attack on Panamanian sovereignty, an interference in its domestic affairs, a transgression of the nonintervention principle that has been accepted by the Panamerican system since the 1933 Conference of Montevideo, and a violation of the precise provisions of the UN and OAS charters. [no closing quote marks as published]

Another paragraph of the PLRA communique states: "One of the party ideals and political platform principles is the respect for Public International Law as a means to solve international conflicts."

"The PLRA understands that the serious Panamanian crisis will only be solved after the withdrawal of the U.S. troops and the calling of free elections under the control of the OAS," the document states.

Public Servants To Receive Christmas Bonus

PY2812140089 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 27 Dec 89 p 1

[Text] For the first time in the history of Paraguay, all public servants will receive a Christmas bonus. President Rodriguez personally made the announcement to the press yesterday. The Christmas bonus will benefit some 102,000 public servants, including teachers, doctors and nurses from the Clinical Hospital and the neuropsychiatric hospital, Chaco War veterans and their widows, retirees, members of the Armed Forces and of the police, and even temporary contracted personnel. Rodriguez said: "The state is obliged to grant this benefit because it is unfair to force private enterprises, factories, and industries to meet this commitment while the state is not doing so. It is unfair that the state has never met this commitment. Therefore we have decided to grant this benefit."

Finance Minister Enzo Debernardi said that the Christmas bonus will from now on be paid every year. The amount of the Christmas bonus to be paid in 1989 totals 18 billion guaranies.

Several sectors of the country have favorably reacted to this measure.

Uruguay

National Party Condemns U.S. Invasion of Panama

PY2712224089 Montevideo LA DEMOCRACIA in Spanish 22 Dec 89 p 3

[Excerpts] The National Party leadership has issued a communique harshly condemning the U.S. invasion of Panama. [passage omitted]

The National Party executive board met on 20 December at the request of President-elect Luis Alberto Lacalle, who, according to information we have obtained, had proposed two similar draft declarations. The difference was that one of the drafts emphasized the judicial aspects, while the other had a basically political tone. After a few changes were made during the meeting, the members of the party executive board unanimously approved the more political version.

Following is the full text of the declaration:

"1. Whereas it has been the National Party's unwavering tradition, it once again reasserts its support for the principles of nonintervention, popular self-determination, and noninterference in other states' affairs, which are the main pillars of international law and the mainstay of the National Party's foreign policy.

"2. Whereas it condemns the U.S. armed intervention in the Republic of Panama, which represents a clear violation of the aforementioned principles, demands an end to the intervention, and once again advocates the need to resort to peaceful means provided in the peoples' right to solve conflicts between states.

"3. Whereas the aforementioned undoubtedly does not imply passing judgement on the domestic situation in the Republic of Panama or on the behavior of its governors, a subject that belongs exclusively to the Panamanians, who are the only ones who can freely and democratically solve their problems.

"4. The National Party leadership hereby reiterates the statement made in this regard on 23 March 1988.

"Montevideo, 20 December 1989." [passage omitted]

Press Reaction to U.S. Invasion of Panama

PY2712161889

[Editorial Report] Montevideo LA HORA POPULAR in Spanish on 21 December 1989 on page 9 publishes a 1,200-word editorial entitled: "Latin American Solidarity Hour: Cowardly and Hypocritical Aggression." In the editorial, the U.S. invasion of Panama is described as a surprise for the whole world and as "a serious and bitter experience for the continent."

The editorial says that "after frequent announcements, the White House finally decided to assault the Panamanian dignity." After describing the courage of the Panamanian people in resisting the invasion, stressing their nationalistic spirit forged through a long coexistence with the imperial arrogance, the editorial states: "It can be said that President Bush's decision is a cruel ratification of the genocide and terrorist leanings practiced for 8 years by Ronald Reagan. In fact, the invasion of Panama surpasses by far the cowardice employed by Reagan against Grenada and the many other barbarities committed in the past by the imperial eagle." It goes on to say that the U.S. troops did not hesitate to bomb several points of the city, without considering the deaths of hundreds of civilian victims.

After terming the U.S. decision to invade Panama as being childish and incredible, like the bombing of Libya in an effort to assassinate al-Qadhdafi, the editorial states: "The true objective of the Bush Administration is to place in Panama an obedient government, and thus continuing to control for an indefinite period the strategic position of the Panama Canal, fully disregarding the treaties signed on 7 September 1977 by General Omar Torrijos and President Carter." The editorial adds that "the last and most serious of all violations of the treaty is the naming of an administrator without the consent or agreement of the Panamanian Government."

Stating that "this is a new political error of the Bush Administration," the editorial concludes by saying that "the most important word at this moment of Latin American indignation is solidarity." We must all practice the same brotherhood and solidarity that was expressed during the war over the Malvinas.

Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish on 21 December 1989 on page 8 carries a 700-word editorial entitled: "Panama, An Inadmissible Case." It says that "the U.S. Government—through a unilateral and inadmissible decision—tried to resolve the conflict with General Noriega by force, thus violating essential principles that rule not only international relations, but especially, inter-American relations." It adds that this show of force violates the UN and OAS charters, but that the invasion was not as much of a surprise as has been reported. It says that "President George Bush informed his counterparts (the successors of Brezhnev) of his intentions to "do justice."

After saying that Noriega is no saint, that he could be involved in drug trafficking and linked to terrorists, that he controlled a bloody dictatorship, and that he also ignored suggestions by the OAS and other outstanding leaders to find a peaceful solution to the Panamanian situation, the editorial says that Noriega's actions "by no means justify what is happening now, with more violence, more deaths, and more risks for the civilian population."

The editorial says that the action deserves "the rejection of the Latin American countries," adding that "with this armed intervention the United States will generate more problems than it resolves, whether Noriega is captured or not, which is the confessed objective of the operation which has shocked the continent." It concludes by saying

that "the countries of the continent are now responsible for the quest for an immediate reestablishment of peace in Panama, within the full framework of international law, including the fulfillment of the Torrijos-Carter treaties."

Communist Party President Arismendi Dies

PY2812012089 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] The burial of Rodney Arismendi, the president of the Communist Party of Uruguay [PCU], will take place (?today) at 1700. The remains of Arismendi, who until last year was the PCU secretary general, are lying in state at the PCU headquarters at 1525 Rio Negro Street. He will be buried at the northern cemetery.

Arismendi died as a result of a general (?urinary) infection. He was born on 21 March 1913 and joined the PCU when he was 16 years old. Arismendi was the director of several PCU publications. In 1945 he joined the Chamber of Deputies, where he served several legislative terms.

Arismendi wrote more than 20 books that have been translated into seven languages. He was appointed president of the CPU Central Committee last year.

The president of the Republic attended Arismendi's lying-in-state this afternoon. Representatives at the Congress building from all parties praised the personality of the late PCU president.

Finance Minister Discusses Foreign Debt Talks

PY2912012489 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 16 Dec 89 p 11

[Text] Upon returning from the United States, Finance Minister Ricardo Zerbino said that through negotiations with the creditor banks, Uruguay is trying to arrange the most avantageous terms for the foreign debt.

He added that the negotiations will have "considerable" impact, that they will mean "a major relief for our fiscal acounts," and that this will allow the country to reduce inflation and to promote growth and investment.

Zerbino, who engaged in intense negotiations with the World Bank and with the creditor bank committee in New York and Washington, was accompanied by President-elect Luis Alberto Lacalle's advisers Enrique Braga and Agustin Urtubey and by Central Bank directors Jorge Sambarino and Kenneth Coates.

The committee approved 4 proposals made by Uruguay, which may consequently be included in the final financial accord, the terms of which will be analyzed more deeply as of 12 February, Zerbino told EL DIA.

The Uruguayan proposals included guidelines that were not approved but that will continue to be analyzed unilaterally and bilaterally, the minister said.

Zerbino added that the four proposals will be negotiated with the creditors between now and February, and also at a meeting that the two sides have scheduled for that month.

He said that the date for the meeting is tentative, because it is expected that progress will be made in the talks over the economic program with the IMF and the World Bank.

The minister stressed that the talks with these two agencies are quite advanced, that an accord has already been reached with the World Bank, and that the Uruguayan Government hopes that this accord will develop in a satisfactory manner.

Zerbino explained that the accord to be negotiated with the IMF is being expediently designed with the help of the delegates of the future administration.

After the talks with the World Bank and the IMF are over, the negotiations will enter their final stage.

The minister confirmed that the program for 1990 has already been drawn up and that an IMF mission that visited Montevideo in recent days met with his economic team, and with President-elect Lacalle and his advisers.

Zerbino said he expects that the talks with the IMF and the World Bank will soon be over and that this will make it possible for Uruguay to begin final negotiations with the banks as of 12 February.

He declined to say whether the negotiations will be over before the upcoming presidential inauguration. He said he prefers to be circumspect regarding dates, because—he noted—the negotiations will be over on the date the accord is signed.

The situation, he went on, does not involve just one single side but both of them, and this is why negotiations are underway. Any progress in the negotiations will depend on the willingness of those who are holding them, the minister said.

Negotiations have thus far been part of an interesting and important stage, because the government transition is being implemented very responsibly.

This fact is of considerable importance abroad, he went on, because the country is showing that it is responsibly handling these issues—which do not depend on the administration in power—because they are important for growth, for socioeconomic well-being, for the implementation of new projects in several areas, and for the people's living standards.

Zerbino said that this is a unique case, because at no other debt negotiations have both the outgoing and the incoming administrations of a country participated and made progress in the talks.

The minister explained the mechanism of the operation. He said that the additional financing of the debt will be implemented with fresh funds, recalling that Mexico has stopped repaying its debt after proposing the automatic capitalization of the interest. Uruguay did not do that, he said, because we believe that such a mechanism is out of keeping with the management of Uruguayan financial affairs.

He reported that the economic team is studying financial mechanisms that may result in the disbursement of fresh funds by the banks.

Even though this is not a priority target, it will have to be included in the refinancing package, because the position of banks should also be taken into account and the negotiations should be approved by the majority of the banks.

The talks will not seek to obtain funds that will increase the debt; they will seek mechanisms for reducing the debt and its servicing.

The negotiations include a mechanism that is different from the one that Uruguay has been using in the past few years. This proposal provides for the conversion of the debt by private agents, Zerbino said.

This proposal, he explained, was considered for the purpose of substantially reducing the debt. Our country and some banks are, in general terms, interested in the conversion, because it helps to channel investment to either new or existing agencies operating in Uruguay, he noted.

This possibility, Zerbino added, will strengthen the financial system by increasing the private sector's risk capital.

This type of operation may result in discounts like those obtained for the conversions made in real terms.

The minister explained that this mechanism has been considered only as part of a final accord with the banks.

The fiscal deficit was also included in the talks with the creditors because, he said, no specific targets are discussed with the banks, which expect countries to have economic policies that are supported by the international financial agencies operating within the Brady Plan. These agencies are major sources of funds for implementation of the accords.

Domestic sources are not considered in the negotiations, Zerbino concluded.

Venezuela

Perez To Form Group of Notables To Study Panama

PA2712150889 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1358 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Caracas, 7 Dec [dateline as received] (DPA)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez is reportedly undertaking top-level efforts to create a commission of notables consisting of former presidents of Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela, "to seek a quick solution to the Panamanian crisis following the U.S. invasion," a Caracas newspaper has reported.

"The (Venezuelan) head of state is trying to establish an international commission of former presidents to travel to Panama as soon as possible and begin talks with all the sectors involved in the conflict," the Venezuelan newspaper states, citing Foreign Ministry sources.

Included among the possible members of that commission is former Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera, with whom President Perez reportedly met on 4 December, although no answer has been received so far on this.

In Colombia, the names mentioned are Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, Misael Pastrana Borrero, and Belisario Betancur; in Mexico, the names mentioned are Luis Echeverria, Jose Lopez Portillo, and Miguel de la Madrid.

"The idea is for the commission, following talks with all the internal and external factors with interests in Panama, to help in the search for political solutions and expedite the departure of U.S. troops," the report adds.

The Venezuelan newspaper notes Carlos Andres Perez is putting "a great deal of interest in this initiative," since he considers it to be fundamental to try to "overcome the isolation his government has encountered after abstaining from condemning the U.S. invasion of Panama at the last OAS meeting."

This morning, Central Information Office Director Pastor Heydra said Venezuela is holding talks with all the countries to find a quick solution to the Panamanian conflict and contribute to the reorganization of the country's government so "an elections process is held and we can see what kind of aid we can offer Panama to enable it to deal with the major problems it faces in terms of health, supplies, and reconstruction." On another topic, Heydra said Venezuela has no "problem" in recognizing the new Romanian regime.

Further on Perez' Efforts

PA2712202289 Paris AFP in Spanish 1933 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Caracas, 27 Dec (AFP)—The Caracas press today reported that Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez has contacted former Colombian and Mexican presidents to establish a three-member, ad-hoc commission

"to seek a solution to the Panamanian crisis" and "facilitate" the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

Perez reportedly spoke to former Colombian Presidents Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, Misael Pastrana Borrero, and Belisario Betancur; and former Mexican Presidents Luis Echeverria, Jose Lopez Portillo, and Miguel de la Madrid to ask them to participate in the commission.

However, press reports state that President Carlos Salinas de Gortari refuses to get involved in the Venezuelan initiative and, thus, Mexico would reportedly not participate in the commission.

The proposal comtemplates the participation of three Latin American presidents in the commission, preferrably from Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela.

It was advanced that former Christian Democratic President Rafael Caldera (1969-74) would reportedly represent Venezuela. He did not deny this. Venezuela—which abstained during the voting on an OAS resolution deploring the invasion and calling for the withdrawal of troops—also intends to call a new OAS meeting, probably in mid-January, to discuss the Panamanian case for a second time.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo told reporters in Caracas that his Colombian counterpart Julio Londono, who presides over the OAS consultation group and is the only one who can call such a meeting, is making consultations in this regard with other member countries.

Foreign Minister Views Panama Situation

PA2912005089 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2207 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Caracas, 28 December (DPA)—Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo stated today in Caracas that Venezuela will accept the Panamanian Government, presided over by Guillermo Endara, once the U.S. troops leave Panamanian territory and "the government calls elections."

"The Panamanian people must legitimize the government as democracy is not reached with bayonets in the back," said Figueredo when he left the Council of Ministers meeting held at Miraflores Palace (presidential headquarters.)

He commented on Venezuela's abstention at the OAS meeting last week, saying that "there were no appropriate circumstances for a firm and determined condemnation of the U.S. invasion of Panama."

Figueredo noted, however, that all Latin America deeply "regrets" this invasion "because we believed the era of U.S. intervention in the continent had been overcome."

Suriname

Brunswijk, Bouterse Hold Peace Talks

FL1912133989 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Surinamese rebel leader Ronnie Brunswijk has met again with the army commander, Desi Bouterse, for peace talks. The meeting yesterday was the first to take place between the two men in the capital, Paramaribo. Mr Bouterse said the talks dealt generally with the peace process and the problem of food and supplies for Suriname's Bush Negroes.

The rebels signed a peace agreement with the government in July but it has not been carried out.

Meanwhile, Suriname's leading human rights activist, Stanley Rensch, says his concern that an agreement between the two sides might not benefit Suriname's human rights movement. He believes that Mr Brunswijk's rebel movement gave hope to some in the country's human rights community but he doesn't think that two men by themselves can guarantee respect for human rights in Suriname.